

BELLTES ACADEMY

South African Multilingual

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SECTION A: COLORS

English	■ Red	■ Blue	■ Green	■ Yellow	■ Black
English	Red	Blue	Green	Yellow	Black
Afrikaans	Rooi	Blou	Groen	Geel	Swart
isiZulu	Obomvu	Oluhlaza	Oluhlaza	Opuphuzi	Omnyama
isiXhosa	Ubomvu	Oluhlaza	Oluhlaza	Otyheli	Mnyama
Sepedi	Hubedu	Tala	Tala	Serolane	Ntsho
Setswana	Khubidu	Tala	Tala	Tshehla	Ntsho
Sesotho	Fubelu	Tala	Tala	Serolane	Ntsho
Xitsonga	Tshwuka	Rihlaza	Rihlaza	Ribungu	Ntima
siSwati	Libomvu	Loluhlaza	Loluhlaza	Liphuzi	Mnyama
Tshivenda	Tswuku	Lutombo	Mudala	Tshitada	Ntswu
isiNdebele	Ibomvu	Elihlaza	Elihlaza	Eliphuzi	Emnyama

SECTION A: COLORS

English	■ White	■ Orange	■ Purple	■ Brown	■ Pink
English	White	Orange	Purple	Brown	Pink
Afrikaans	Wit	Oranje	Pers	Bruin	Pienk
isiZulu	Omhlope	Osolintshi	Obukhwebezane	Onsundu	Okuphinki
isiXhosa	Mhlophe	Orenji	Mfusa	Ntsundu	Pinki
Sepedi	Tshweu	Namune	Phepole	Tokwa	Pinki
Setswana	Tshweu	Namune	Phepole	Borokwa	Pinki
Sesotho	Tshweu	Namune	Phepole	Tshoana	Pinki
Xitsonga	Basa	Lamula	Dravu	Ribungu	Pinki
siSwati	Mhlophe	Li-orenji	Liphurphuri	Linsundu	Liphinki
Tshivenda	Tshena	Swiri	Vhulivha	Luvundu	Pinki
isiNdebele	Emhlophe	Elilamula	Emfusa	Ensundu	Epinki

SECTION A: COLORS

English	■ Gray	■ Gold	■ Silver	■ Turquoise	■ Lavender
English	Gray	Gold	Silver	Turquoise	Lavender
Afrikaans	Grys	Goud	Silwer	Turkoois	Labendera
isiZulu	Ompunga	Igolide	Isiliva	U-turquoise	I-lavender
isiXhosa	Ngwevu	Igolide	Isiliva	Dasi	Labhenda
Sepedi	Pududu	Gauta	Selefera	Tala	Phepole
Setswana	Putswa	Gauta	Selefera	Tala	Phepole
Sesotho	Putsoa	Gauta	Selefera	Tala	Phepole
Xitsonga	Punga	Nsuku	Silivhere	Rihlaza	Dravu
siSwati	Lupunga	Ligolide	Lisiliva	Loluhlaza	Liphurphuri
Tshivenda	Mutsuku	Musuku	Siliva	Lutombo	Vhulivha
isiNdebele	Elipunga	Igolide	Isiliva	Elihlaza	Emfusa

SECTION A: COLORS

English: The house is red.

Afrikaans: Die huis is rooi.

isiZulu: Indlu ibomvu.

isiXhosa: Indlu ibomvu.

Sepedi: Ntlo e khubedu.

Setswana: Ntlo e khubidu.

Sesotho: Ntlo e khubelu.

Xitsonga: Yindlu yi tshwukile.

siSwati: Indlu libomvu.

Tshivenda: Nndu ndi tswuku.

isiNdebele: Indlu ibomvu.

Linguistic Explanation: In indigenous South African languages, adjectives like colors cannot stand alone without adapting to the noun they modify. In the Nguni branch (isiZulu, isiXhosa, siSwati, isiNdebele), nouns are categorised into classes. When you say "The house is red", the noun *indlu* (house) forces the color root *-bomvu* to take the prefix *i-* or *u-*, resulting in *ibomvu* or *ubomvu*. In the Sotho-Tswana group (Sepedi, Setswana, Sesotho), the noun *ntlo* commands the agreement particle *e*, modifying the structural form of the color to *khubedu* / *khubidu*. Additionally, traditional Nguni classification blends blue and green into one conceptual root word (*-luhlaza*), relying entirely on environment descriptors (sky vs. grass) to distinguish them when required.

SECTION B: FOUNDATIONAL VERBS

English	■■■■ Walk / Go	■■ See	■■ Say / Tell	■■ Do / Make	■■ Eat
English	Go / Walk	See	Say	Do / Make	Eat
Afrikaans	Gaan / Loop	Sien	Sê	Doen / Maak	Eet
isiZulu	Hamba / Ya	Bona	Thi / Tshela	Enza	Dla
isiXhosa	Hamba / Ya	Bona	Tsho / Tshela	Enza	Dla
Sepedi	Tšwa / Ya	Bona	Re / Botša	Dira	Dla / Ja
Setswana	Tsamaya / Ya	Bona	Raya / Bolela	Dira	Ja
Sesotho	Tsamaea / Ya	Bona	Re / Bolella	Dira	Ja
Xitsonga	Famba / Ya	Vona	Vula / Byela	Endla	Dya
siSwati	Hamba / Ya	Bona	Ntsiri / Tshela	Enta	Dla
Tshivenda	Vhuya / Ya	Vhona	Amba / Vhudza	Ita	La
isiNdebele	Hamba / Ya	Bona	Tsho / Tshela	Enza	Dla

SECTION B: FOUNDATIONAL VERBS

English	■ Drink	■ Give	■ Take / Get	■ Know	■ Think
English	Drink	Give	Take	Know	Think
Afrikaans	Drink	Gee	Neem / Kry	Weet	Dink
isiZulu	Phuza	Pha / Nika	Thatha	Azi	Cabanga
isiXhosa	Sela / Phuza	Pha / Nika	Thatha	Azi	Cinga
Sepedi	Nwa	Fha / Neela	Tšea	Tseba	Nagana
Setswana	Nwa	Naya / Fha	Tsaya	Tseba	Akanya
Sesotho	Nwa	Fana / Neha	Nka	Tseba	Nahana
Xitsonga	Nwa	Nyika	Teka	Tiva	Anakanya
siSwati	Nwa / Phuza	Pha / Nika	Tsatsa	Ati	Cabanga
Tshivenda	Nwa	Neva / Fha	Dzhia	Divha	Humbula
isiNdebele	Phuza	Pha / Nika	Thatha	Azi	Cabanga

SECTION B: FOUNDATIONAL VERBS

English	■ Sleep	■■■■ Run	■ Learn / Read	✍️ Write	■ Work
English	Sleep	Run	Learn	Write	Work
Afrikaans	Slaap	Hardloop	Leer / Lees	Skryf	Werk
isiZulu	Lala	Gijima	Funda	Bhala	Sebenza
isiXhosa	Lala	Baleka / Gijima	Funda	Bhala	Sebenza
Sepedi	Robala	Kitima	Ithuta	Ngwala	Šoma
Setswana	Robala	Taboga	Ithuta	Kwala	Dirang / Bereka
Sesotho	Robala	Matha	Ithuta	Ngola	Sebetsa
Xitsonga	Etlela	Tsutsuma	Dyondza	Tsala	Tirha
siSwati	Lala	Gijima	Funda	Bhala	Sebenta
Tshivenda	Edela	Gidima	Guda	Nwala	Shuma
isiNdebele	Lala	Gijima	Funda	Bhala	Sebenza

SECTION B: FOUNDATIONAL VERBS

English: I am walking.

Afrikaans: Ek loop.

isiZulu: Ngiyahamba.

isiXhosa: Ndiyahamba.

Sepedi: Ke a sepela.

Setswana: Ke a tsamaya.

Sesotho: Ke a tsamaea.

Xitsonga: Ndzi ri karhi ndzi famba.

siSwati: Ngiyahamba.

Tshivenda: Ndi khou tshimbila.

isiNdebele: Ngiyahamba.

Linguistic Explanation: Verbs in the Bantu family do not use independent subject pronouns like the English word "I" or the Afrikaans word "Ek". Instead, pronouns are bound morphemes attached directly to the front of the verb stem. In isiZulu, isiXhosa, siSwati, and isiNdebele, the subject concord for "I" is *Ngi-* or *Ndi-*. To show a continuous present action ("I am walking"), the tense marker *-ya-* is inserted between the pronoun prefix and the verb root (*-hamba*), resulting in *Ngiyahamba*. In Xitsonga, continuous actions employ a separate auxiliary format (*Ndzi ri karhi ndzi...*), while Tshivenda uses the marker *khou* to pinpoint ongoing activities (*Ndi khou tshimbila*).

SECTION C: HOUSEHOLD NOUNS

English	■ House	■ Chair	■ Bed	■ Door	■ Window
English	House	Chair	Bed	Door	Window
Afrikaans	Huis	Stoel	Bed	Deur	Venster
isiZulu	Indlu	Isitulo	Umbede	Isicabha	Ifulestela
isiXhosa	Indlu	Isitulo	Ibhedi	Ucango	Ifestile
Sepedi	Ntlo	Setulo	Mphete	Mojako	Lefesetere
Setswana	Ntlo	Setulo	Bolao	Mojako	Lefesetere
Sesotho	Ntlo	Setulo	Moora	Monako	Lefesetere
Xitsonga	Yindlu	Xitulu	Mubedwa	Rivanti	Fasitere
siSwati	Indlu	Sihlalo	Umbedze	Umnyango	Lifastelo
Tshivenda	Nndu	Tshitulo	Miete	Vothi	Fesitere
isiNdebele	Indlu	Isitulo	Umbede	Umnyango	Ifesidere

SECTION C: HOUSEHOLD NOUNS

English	■ Table	■ Key	■ Plate	■ Cup	■ Spoon
English	Table	Key	Plate	Cup	Spoon
Afrikaans	Tafel	Sleutel	Bord	Koppie	Lepel
isiZulu	Itiyele	Ukhiye	Ipuleti	Inkomishi	Isipuni
isiXhosa	Itafile	Isitshixo	Ipleyiti	Ikomityi	Icephe
Sepedi	Tafole	Khiye	Poleiti	Komiki	Leswana
Setswana	Tafole	Khiye	Poleiti	Komiki	Leswana
Sesotho	Tafole	Senotlolo	Poleiti	Komiki	Lesoana
Xitsonga	Tafula	Khiye	Phuleti	Komiki	Levula
siSwati	Litafula	Ukhiye	Iplati	Inkomishi	Sipunu
Tshivenda	Tafula	Khii	Phuleithi	Khaphu	Lufhoho
isiNdebele	Itafula	Ukhiye	Ipleyidi	Inkomitjhi	Isipuni

SECTION C: HOUSEHOLD NOUNS

English	■ Knife	■ Phone	■ Soap	■ Towel	■ Broom
English	Knife	Phone	Soap	Towel	Broom
Afrikaans	Mes	Foon	Seep	Handdoek	Besem
isiZulu	Umele	Umakhalekhukhwini	Insipho	Ithawula	Umshanyelo
isiXhosa	Imela	Ifowuni	Inesepe	Itawuli	Umtshayelo
Sepedi	Thipa	Mogala	Sesepe	Towele	Lesielo
Setswana	Thipa	Mogala	Sesepe	Towele	Lefielo
Sesotho	Thipa	Mohala	Sesepe	Towele	Lefielo
Xitsonga	Mukwana	Riqingho	Xisopo	Towele	Mukombo
siSwati	Ummese	Makhalekhukhwini	Insipho	Lithawula	Umshanyelo
Tshivenda	Lufhanga	Lutingo	Tshisibe	Thaula	Lufielo
isiNdebele	Imela	Ifowuni	Inzibe	Ithawula	Umtshanyelo

SECTION C: HOUSEHOLD NOUNS

English: I am sitting on the chair.

Afrikaans: Ek sit op die stoel.

isiZulu: Ngihlezi esitulweni.

isiXhosa: Ndihleli esitulweni.

Sepedi: Ke dutše setulong.

Setswana: Ke dutse mo setulong.

Sesotho: Ke dutse setulong.

Xitsonga: Ndzi tshamile exitulwini.

siSwati: Ngihlezi esihlalweni.

Tshivenda: Ndi dzula tshituloni.

isiNdebele: Ngihlezi esitulweni.

Linguistic Explanation: Saying "on", "in", or "at" a household object does not use a separate prepositional word like "on" in English. Instead, the noun itself goes through an inflectional process called locative mutation. In Nguni languages, the noun prefix shifts to *e-* and the suffix transforms to *-weni* or *-ni*. For example, *isitulo* (chair) changes completely into *esitulweni* to mean "on the chair". Similarly, the Sotho languages append the suffix *-ng* directly to the noun stem (*setulo* becomes *setulong*). Furthermore, structural vocabulary differences mirror the history of South Africa; many household items are phonetically adapted loanwords derived from Afrikaans and English (e.g., *tafel/table* becoming *itafile*, *tafol*, or *litafula*).

SECTION D: GREETINGS, POLITENESS & HELP

English	■ Hello (Singular)	■ Hello (Plural)	■ Good Morning	■ Good Night	■■■■ Goodbye (Stay)
English	Hello	Hello (all)	Good morning	Good night	Goodbye (Stay well)
Afrikaans	Hallo	Hallo almal	Goeiemôre	Goeienag	Totsiens
isiZulu	Sawubona	Sanibonani	Livukile	Lalani kahle	Sala kahle
isiXhosa	Molo	Molweni	Gidimani	Lalani kakuhle	Sala kakuhle
Sepedi	Dumela	Dumelang	Thobela	Robalang gabotse	Šala gabotse
Setswana	Dumela	Dumelang	Re tsogile	Robalang sentle	Sala sentle
Sesotho	Dumela	Dumelang	Re tsogile	Robalang hantle	Sala hantle
Xitsonga	Avuxeni	Avuxeni	Njhani	Etelani kahle	Sala kahle
siSwati	Sawubona	Sanibonani	Livukile	Lalani kahle	Sala kahle
Tshivenda	Ndaa (m) / Aa (f)	Ndi matsheloni	Ndi vhuku	Edelani zwavhudi	Salani zwavhudi
isiNdebele	Lotjha	Lotjhani	Livukile	Lalani kuhle	Sala kuhle

SECTION D: GREETINGS, POLITENESS & HELP

English	■■■■ Goodbye (Go)	■ Please	■ Thank You	■ Excuse Me / Sorry	■ You're Welcome
English	Goodbye (Go well)	Please	Thank you	Excuse me / Sorry	You're welcome
Afrikaans	Totsiens	Asseblief	Dankie	Verskoon my / Jammer	Welkom / Plesier
isiZulu	Hamba kahle	Ngiyacela	Ngiyabonga	Uxolo	Nami ngiyabonga
isiXhosa	Hamba kakuhle	Khawuleza / Kwenze	Ndiyabulela	Uxolo	Wamkelekile
Sepedi	Sepela gabotse	Hle	Ke a leboga	Tshwarelo	O amogelesgile
Setswana	Tsamaya sentle	Tswee-tswee	Ke a leboga	Tshwarelo	O amogelesgile
Sesotho	Tsamaea hantle	Hle	Ke a leboha	Tshwarelo	O amogehile
Xitsonga	Famba kahle	Ndzi kombela	Khensisa / Ndza nkensa	Ndzi khongele	U amukeriwile
siSwati	Hamba kahle	Ngiyacela	Ngiyabonga	Uxolo	Nami ngiyabonga
Tshivenda	Tshimbilani zwavhudi	Vhathu vhavhudi	Ndi a livhuha	Khathutshelo	No tangedzwa
isiNdebele	Hamba kuhle	Ngiyawa	Ngiyathokoza	Uxolo	Wamukelekile

SECTION D: GREETINGS, POLITENESS & HELP

English	■ Help!	■ Can you help me?	■ Where is...?	■ Do you speak English?	■ How are you?
English	Help!	Can you help me?	Where is...?	Do you speak English?	How are you?
Afrikaans	Hulp!	Kan jy my help?	Waar is...?	Praat jy Engels?	Hoe gaan dit?
isiZulu	Siza!	Ungangisiza na?	Kuphi...?	Uyasikhuluma isiNgisi?	Unjani? / Nginjalo
isiXhosa	Nceda!	Ungandinceda na?	Iphi...?	Uyasithetha isiNgesi?	Unjani?
Sepedi	Thušo!	O ka nthuša?	E kae...?	Na o bolela Seisimane?	O kae?
Setswana	Thuso!	A o ka nthuša?	E kae...?	A o bua Seisimane?	O tsogile jang?
Sesotho	Thuso!	A o ka nthuša?	E kae...?	Na o bua Seisimane?	O kae?
Xitsonga	Mpfuno!	U nga ndzi pfuna?	Kwihi...?	Wa xi vulavula Xinghezi?	Ku njhani?
siSwati	Siza!	Ungangisiza na?	Kuphi...?	Uyasikhuluma isiNgisi?	Unjani?
Tshivenda	Thusedzo!	Vha nga nthuša?	I ngafhi...?	Vha a amba Luisimane?	Vho vuwa hani?
isiNdebele	Siza!	Ungangisiza na?	Kuphi...?	Uyasikhuluma isiNgisi?	Unjani?

SECTION D: GREETINGS, POLITENESS & HELP

English: Hello, how are you?

Afrikaans: Hallo, hoe gaan dit met jou?

isiZulu: Sawubona, unjani?

isiXhosa: Molo, unjani?

Sepedi: Dumela, o kae?

Setswana: Dumela, o tsogile jang?

Sesotho: Dumela, o kae?

Xitsonga: Avuxeni, ku njhani?

siSwati: Sawubona, unjani?

Tshivenda: Ndaa/Aa, vho vuwa hani?

isiNdebele: Lotjha, unjani?

Linguistic Explanation: Greetings vary sharply based on social status, gender, and plural contexts across South Africa. In Nguni and Sotho cultures, if you address a group or show deep respect to an elder, you shift the word to its plural configuration (e.g., *Sawubona* becomes *Sanibonani* in isiZulu; *Dumela* becomes *Dumelang* in Sesotho). Tshivenda features a strict **gendered greeting structure**: a man must greet by saying **Ndaa** while bowing slightly, whereas a woman must say **Aa** while bringing her hands together in a gentle clap. Goodbye formulas are also split by perspective: you tell someone who is leaving to "go well" (*Hamba kahle* / *Tsamaya sentle*), but tell someone who is staying behind to "stay well" (*Sala kahle* / *Sala sentle*).