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Mother Tongue

Afrikaans Language Course

Data Friendly Version



Intro to
learning
Afrikaans

Lesson One

History of the language

Origins - Made up from Dutch, German, French, and other African languages – The Afrikaans language was born out of a wide mix of cultural influences. This is most commonly found in Gauteng and the Cape regions of South Africa.

The language itself has many Dutch and German phrasings as well as Malay and even Portuguese. There are also similarities taken from the clicking sounds of the other local languages.

Culture - The Afrikaans people are commonly associated with boerewors (Similar to sausage), Biltong (Dried meat), Veldskoene (Type of shoe) and a seriously strong love for rugby.

The Afrikaans culture has its own food staples, local music, and language that are passed down through generations.

Pronunciation

“aa”

(The letter “aa” sounds like “aah” within a word – long sound)

Try with “Kaap” –word for Cape.

“g”

(A sound made by the throat with the mouth open – breathing out)

Try with “Geld” –word for Money.

“v”

(The letter “v” sounds like “f” within a word – long sound)

Try with “Vis” –word for Fish.

Greetings

Hello
Hallo

Good morning
Goeie more

How are you?
Hoe gaan dit?

Long-time no see
Lanklaas gesien

I am good
Ek is goed

Goodbye
Totsiens

See you later
Sien jou later

Thank you
Dankie

Excuse me
Verskoon my

You are welcome
Jy is welkom

Lesson Two

Date

Monday –
Maandag

Tuesday –
Dinsdag

Wednesday –
Woensdag

Thursday –
Donderdag

Friday –
Vrydag

Saturday –
Saterdag

Sunday –
Sondag

Today –
Vandag

Tomorrow –
More

What is the day today? –
Wat is die datum vandag?

Common things

One hundred Rand –
Een honderd rand

Traffic lights –
Verkeersligte

Corner –
Hoek

Bus –
Bus

Match –
Pas

Building –
Gebou

Street –
Straat

Hair –
Hare

Head –
Kop

Chest –
Bors

Heart –
Hart

Stomach –
Maag

Fingers –
Vingers

Feet –
Voete

Eyes –
Oe

Mouth –
Mond

Nose –
Neus

Hands –
Hande

Value

One –
Een

Two –
Twee

Three –
Drie

Four –
Vier

Five –
Vyf

Six –
Ses

Seven –
Sewe

Eight –
Agt

Nine –
Nege

Ten –
Tien

Last –
Laaste

First –
Eerste

Short phrases

Yes –
Ja

No –
Nee

Please –
Asseblief

You are welcome –
Jy is welkom

Excuse me, what did you say? –
Verskoon my, wat het jy gese?

Can you say that again? –
Kan jy dit herhaal?

I don't understand –
Ek verstaan nie

I understand a little –
Ek verstaan 'n bietjie

Do you speak English? –
Praat jy Engels?

Come in –
Kom in

Who –
Wie?

What –
Wat?

Why –
Hoekom?

When –
Wanneer?

Where –
Waar?

How –
Hoe?

Too little –
Te min

Enough –
Genoeg

Lesson Three

Common questions

How much is this? –
Hoeveel kos dit?

What time is it? –
Hoe laat is dit?

When does it begin? –
Wanneer begin dit?

What is the weather like today? –
Wat is die weer vandag?

Are you available? –
Is jy beskikbaar?

What is your name? –
Wat is jou naam?

Do you take credit cards? –
Neem jy kredietkaarte?

Where do I sign? –
Waar teken ek?

Could you please stop here –
Stop Asseblief hier

How far is it? –
Hoe ver is dit?

Where do you live? –
Waar woon jy?

Where are you going? –
Waar gaan jy heen?

Where is the toilet? –
Waar is die badkamer?

What is the matter? –
Wat is verkeerde?

Ask for Help

Can you help me please? –
Kan jy my asseblief hulp?

Will you please write it down? –
Kan jy asseblief dit afskryf?

Please hurry –
Maak asseblief gou

Thanks for your help –
Dankie vir jou hulp

I am lost –
Ek is verdwaal

What is changing? –
Wat verander?

Where is the nearest garage? –
Waar is die naaste motorhuis?

Where is the nearest shop? –
Waar is die naaste winkel?

Where do I pay? –
Waar betaal ek?

Where can I buy a ticket? –
Waar kan ek 'n kaartjie koop?

Instructions

Please take me to the airport –
Neem my asseblief lughawe toe

Taxi please –
Taxi asseblief

I would like some coffee please –
Ek wil asseblief koffie he

I want to withdraw money –
Ek wil asseblief geld uitneem

Turn left –
Draai links

Turn right –
Draai regs

Straight ahead –
Reguit vorentoe

It is too expensive –
Dit is te duur

This is too big –
Dit is te groot

This is too small –
Dit is te klein

Can i see a doctor –
Kan ek 'n dokter sien

I am sick –
Ek is siek

I am tired –
Ek is moeg

I am hungry –
Ek is honger

I am thirsty –
Ek is dors

I am happy –
Ek is gelukkig

Continued learning

Online dictionary – <https://www.lexicool.com/afrikaans-dictionary-translation.asp/>

Use the above link for an online Afrikaans to English dictionary. If you are stuck with a word, then look it up and grow your ability to converse and communicate.

The best way to continue practicing any new language is to make relationships. Find someone at work, in your community or through online channels that speak Afrikaans. Form a relationship that allows you to practice and grow your confidence in speaking Afrikaans conversationally. You might just make some new friends along the way!