

Afrikaans



pronunciation

Vowels		Consonants	
Symbol	English sound	Symbol	English sound
a	run	b	bed
aa	father	ch	cheat
ai	aisle	d	dog
aw	law	f	fun
ay	say	g	go
e	bet	h	hat
ee	see	k	kit
eu	nurse	kh	as the 'ch' in the Scottish <i>loch</i>
ew	ee with rounded lips	l	lot
ey	as in bet, but longer	m	man
i	hit	n	not
o	pot	ng	ring
oh	cold	p	pet
oo	poor	r	run (trilled)
oy	toy	s	sun
u	put	sh	shot
uh	ago	t	top
In this chapter, the Afrikaans pronunciation is given in blue after each phrase. Each syllable is separated by a dot, and the syllable stressed in each word is italicised. For example: <i>Dankie.</i> <i>dang-kee</i>		v	very
		w	win
		y	yes
		z	zero
		zh	pleasure

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introduction

You don't need to look hard for evidence of Afrikaans in English: *aardvark*, the name of a termite-eating mammal native to Africa, is one of the first words in any English dictionary. English has also borrowed the Afrikaans words *commando* and *trek*, among others. Afrikaans (*Afrikaans a-free-kans*) belongs to the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family – just like English. It's closely related to the 17th-century Dutch brought to South Africa from 1652 onward, when The Dutch East India Company established the first European settlement at the Cape of Good Hope. Afrikaans derives from the dialect that developed among these settlers, most of whom were from the Netherlands. Until the late 19th century, Afrikaans was considered a Dutch dialect and was known as 'Cape Dutch' – in fact, it wasn't until 1925 that it became one of the official languages of South Africa. Today, it's the first language of some six million people, and is spoken in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia as well as South Africa.

