



## 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 bitterrr-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 flop 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 flop 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