

Xhosa



pronunciation

Vowels		Consonants	
Symbol	English sound	Symbol	English sound
aa	father	b	as in rib-punch
aw	law	b'	strong b with air sucked in
e	bet	ch'	as in 'let-show', but spat out'
ee	see	d	as in 'hard-times'
u	put	dl	like a voiced hl
<p>In this chapter, the Xhosa pronunciation is given in teal after each phrase.</p> <p>Each syllable is separated by a dot, and the syllable stressed in each word is italicised.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p><i>Enkosi.</i> <i>e-nk'aw-see</i></p> <p>Xhosa's glottalised consonants, simplified as b', ch', k', p', t' and ts' in our pronunciation guide, are made by tightening and releasing the space between the vocal cords when you pronounce the sound, a bit like combining it with the sound in the middle of the word 'uh-oh'. The sound b' has an extra twist – instead of breathing out to make the sound, you breathe in.</p> <p>For information on Xhosa's distinctive click sounds, see the box on page 184.</p> <p>The term 'voiced' used in relation to the dl sound means that it's produced with the vocal cords vibrating.</p>		f	fun
		g	as in 'big-kick'
		h	hat
		hl	as in the Welsh 'llewellyn'
		j	jar
		k	kit
		k'	strong k
		l	lot
		m	man
		n	not
		ng	finger
		ny	canyon
		p	pet
		p'	poping p
		r	run (rolled)
		s	sun
		sh	shot
		t	top
		t'	spitting t
		ts'	as in 'lets', but spat out
v	very		
w	win		
y	yes		
z	zero		

XHOSA

isixhosa

introduction

Learn some Xhosa (*Funda isiXhosa fu-ndaa ee-see-kh'aw-saa*) words and not only will you be able to communicate with the Xhosa people in their own language, but you'll have something in common with one of Africa's greatest heroes. Nelson Mandela is arguably the world's most famous Xhosa speaker – incidentally, his Xhosa name is the somewhat prophetic *Rolihlahla raw-lee-hlaa-hlaa* (troublemaker). Xhosa is the most widely distributed African language in South Africa (although most of its speakers live in the southeastern Cape Province) and one of the country's official languages. About 18 per cent of South Africans, or six and a half million people, speak Xhosa. It belongs to the Nguni subfamily of the Bantu languages, along with Zulu, Swati and Ndebele. The Bantu-speaking groups migrated south over the centuries along the coast of East Africa and through Central Africa. In southern Africa, they encountered Khoisan-speaking people and borrowed elements of their language – in particular, the 'click' sounds, a distinctive feature of Xhosa and other South African languages.



language difficulties

Do you speak English?	<i>Uyasithetha isingesi?</i>	u-yaa-see-te-taa ee-see-nge-see
Do you understand?	<i>Uyaqonda?</i>	u-yaa-kjaw-ndaa
I (don't) understand.	<i>(Andi)qondi.</i>	(aa-ndee-)kjaw-ndee
Could you please ...?	<i>Unakho ukunceda ...?</i>	u-naa-kaw u-k'u-nle-daa ...
repeat that	<i>khawuphinde</i>	kaa-wu-pee-nde
speak more	<i>thetha ngoku</i>	te-taa ngaw-k'u
slowly	<i>cothisisa</i>	klaw-tee-see-saa
write it down	<i>yibhale phantsi</i>	yee-baa-le paa-nts'ee

click sounds

Xhosa has a series of click sounds: some clicks are against the front teeth (like a 'tsk' sound), some are against the roof of the mouth at the front (like a 'tock' sound) and some are against the side teeth (like the chirrup you make to get a horse to start walking).

front teeth	roof of the mouth	side teeth	description
k!	k _ɿ	k _ʼ	voiceless
kh!	kh _ɿ	kh _ʼ	aspirated (with a puff of air)
g!	g _ɿ	g _ʼ	voiced
n!	n _ɿ	n _ʼ	nasalized voiceless
gn!	gn _ɿ	gn _ʼ	nasalised voiced

time, dates & numbers

What time is it?	<i>Ngubani ixesha?</i>	ngu-b'aa-nee ee-k/ɛ-shaa
It's one o'clock.	<i>Nguwani.</i>	ngu-waa-nee
It's (two) o'clock.	<i>Ngu(thu).</i>	ngu-(thu)
Quarter past (one).	<i>Yikota pasti</i> (wani).	yee-k'aw-t'aa p'aa-st'ee (waa-nee)
Half past (one).	<i>Yihaf pasti (wani).</i>	yee-haaf p'aa-st'ee (waa-nee)
Quarter to (eight).	<i>Yikota thu(eyiti).</i>	yee-k'aw-t'aa tu-(e-yee-t'ee)
At what time ...?	<i>Ngobani ixesha ...?</i>	ngaw-b'aa-nee ee-k/ɛ-shaa ...
At ...	<i>Ngo ...</i>	ngaw ...
It's (15 December).	<i>Yi(fiftini</i> <i>kaDisemba).</i>	yee-(feef-t'ee-nee k'aa-dee-se-mbaa)

yesterday	<i>izolo</i>	ee-zaw-law
today	<i>namhlanje</i>	naam-hlaa-nje
tomorrow	<i>ngomso</i>	ngaw-msaw
Monday	<i>mvulo</i>	mvu-law
Tuesday	<i>lwesibini</i>	lwe-see-b'ee-nee
Wednesday	<i>lwesithathu</i>	lwe-see-taa-tu
Thursday	<i>lwesine</i>	lwe-see-ne
Friday	<i>lwesihlanu</i>	lwe-see-hlaa-nu
Saturday	<i>mgqibelo</i>	m-gjee-b'e-law
Sunday	<i>cawa</i>	k'laa-waa

numbers

In Xhosa, numbers borrowed from English are commonly used and will be understood. They're also given in this chapter, rather than the more complex Xhosa forms. Numbers one to 10 are given below.

1	<i>wani</i>	<i>waa-nee</i>	6	<i>siksi</i>	<i>seek'-see</i>
2	<i>thu</i>	<i>tu</i>	7	<i>seveni</i>	<i>se-ve-nee</i>
3	<i>thri</i>	<i>tree</i>	8	<i>eyithi</i>	<i>e-yee-tee</i>
4	<i>fo</i>	<i>faw</i>	9	<i>nayini</i>	<i>naa-yee-nee</i>
5	<i>fayifu</i>	<i>faa-yee-fu</i>	10	<i>teni</i>	<i>t'e-nee</i>

border crossing

I'm here ...	<i>Ndilapha ...</i>	ndee-laa-paa ...
in transit	<i>ngothutho</i>	ngaw-tu-taw
on business	<i>shishina</i>	shee-shee-naa
on holiday	<i>eholideyini</i>	e-haw-lee-de-yee-nee
I'm here for ...	<i>Ndilapha ka ...</i>	ndee-laa-paa k'aa ...
(10) days	<i>(teni) imini</i>	(t'e-nee) ee-mee-nee
(three) weeks	<i>(thri) iveki</i>	(tree) ee-ve-k'ee
(two) months	<i>(thu) inyanga</i>	(tu) ee-nyaa-ngaa
I'm going to (Cintsa).	<i>Ndiya kwidolophu (eCintsa).</i>	ndee-yaa k'wee-daw-law-pu (e-lee-nts'aa)
I'm staying at the (Buccaneer's).	<i>Ndihlala kwihotele (eBuccaneer's).</i>	ndee-hlaa-laa k'wee-haw-t'e-le (e-b'u-k'laa-ners)

tickets

A ... ticket (to Mdantsane), please.	<i>Linye ... itikiti (eliya eMdantsane), nceda.</i>	<i>lee-nye ... ee-t'ee-k'ee-t'ee (e-lee-yaa e-mdaa-nts'aa-ne) n!e-daa</i>
one-way return	<i>ndlelanye buyela</i>	<i>ndle-laa-nye b'u-ye-laa</i>
I'd like to ... my ticket, please.	<i>Ndingathanda uku ... itikiti lam, ndiyacela.</i>	<i>ndee-ngaa-taa-ndaa u-k'u ... ee-t'ee-k'ee-t'ee laam ndee-yaa-le-laa</i>
cancel change collect	<i>rhoxisa tshintsha qokelela</i>	<i>khaw-k'ee-saa ch'ee-ntshaa jaw-k'e-le-laa</i>
I'd like a ... seat, please.	<i>Ndingathanda ... esihlalweni, ndiyacela.</i>	<i>ndee-ngaa-taa-ndaa ... e-see-hlaa-lwe-nee ndee-yaa-le-laa</i>
nonsmoking smoking	<i>ukutshaya ukungatshayi</i>	<i>u-k'u-ch'aa-yaa u-k'u-ngaa-ch'aa-yee</i>
Is there a toilet/air conditioning?	<i>Ikhona ithoyilethi/umoya ogudileyo?</i>	<i>ee-kaw-naa ee-taw-yee-le-tee/u-maw-yaa aw-gu-dee-le-yaw</i>
How long does the trip take?	<i>Luthatha kangakanani uhambo?</i>	<i>lu-taa-taa k'aa-ngaa-k'aa-naa-nee u-haa-mb'aw</i>
Is it a direct route?	<i>Yindlela ethe tse?</i>	<i>yee-ndle-laa e-te ts'e</i>

transport

Where does flight (SAA59) arrive/depart?	<i>Iflayithi (SAA fifti nayini) ifika/ihamba phi?</i>	<i>ee-flaa-yee-tee (s-aa-aa feef-t'ee naa-yee-nee) ee-fee-k'aa/ee-haa-mb'aa pee</i>
How long will it be delayed?	<i>Izakulibazisa kangakanani?</i>	<i>ee-zaa-k'u-lee-b'aa-zee-saa k'aa-ngaa-k'aa-naa-nee</i>

Is this the ... to (Port Elizabeth)?	<i>Yile ... eya (eBhayi)?</i>	<i>yee-le ... e-yaa (e-baa-yee)?</i>
boat bus plane train	<i>iphenyane ibhasi inqwelomoya uloliwe</i>	<i>ee-pe-nyaa-nee ee-baa-see ee-njwe-law-maw-yaa u-law-lee-we</i>

How much is it to ...?

Kuxabisa njani u ...? ku-k'aa-b'ee-saa njaa-nee u ...

Please take me to (this address).

Ndicela undise (kule dilesi). ndee-k!e-laa u-ndee-se (k'u-le dee-le-see)

I'd like to hire a car/4WD (with air conditioning).

Ndifuna ukuhayarisha imoto/4WD (ibe nomoya ogudileyo). ndee-fu-naa u-k'u-haa-yaa-ree-shaa ee-maw-t'aw/ee-faw-weel-draa-yee-vu (ee-b'e naw-maw-yaa aw-gu-dee-le-yaw)

How much is it for (three) days/weeks?

Ixabisa kangakanani iintsuku (eziyithri)/iiveki? ee-k'aa-b'ee-saa k'aa-ngaa-k'aa-naa-nee ee-nts'u-k'u (e-zee-yee-tree)/ee-ve-k'ee

directions

Where's the (nearest) ...?	<i>Iphi e(kufutshane) ...?</i>	<i>ee-pee e-(k'u-fu-ch'aa-ne) ...</i>
internet café	<i>ikhefi yeintanethi</i>	<i>ee-ke-fee ye-ee-nt'aa-ne-tee</i>
market	<i>imakhethi</i>	<i>ee-maa-ke-tee</i>

Is this the road to (Grahamstown)?

Ingaba lendlela iya (eRhini)? ee-ngaa-b'aa le-ndle-laa ee-yaa (e-khee-nee)

Can you show me (on the map)?

Ungandibonisa (kwimaphu)? ungaa-ndee-b'aw-nee-saa (k'wee-maa-pu)

What's the address?

Ithini idilesi? ee-tee-nee ee-dee-le-see

How far is it?

Kukude kangakanani? k'u-k'u-de k'aa-ngaa-k'aa-naa-nee

How do I get there?

Ndifika njani apho? ndee-fee-k'aa njaa-nee aa-paw

Turn left/right.

Jika ekhohlo/ekunene. jee-k'aa e-kaw-hlaw/e-k'u-ne-nee

It's ...	I ...	ee ...
behind ...	<i>emva ...</i>	<i>e-mvaa ...</i>
in front of ...	<i>ngaphambi ko ...</i>	<i>ngaa-paa-mb'ee k'aw ...</i>
near (to ...)	<i>kufutshane ...</i>	<i>k'u-fu-ch'aa-ne ...</i>
next to ...	<i>landelayo ...</i>	<i>laa-nde-laa-yaw ...</i>
on the corner	<i>ekoneni</i>	<i>e-kaw-ne-nee</i>
opposite ...	<i>chaseneyo ...</i>	<i>kh!aa-se-ne-yaw ...</i>
straight ahead	<i>nkqo-ngaphambili</i>	<i>nkjaw-ngaa-paa-mb'ee-lee</i>
there	<i>apho</i>	<i>aa-paw</i>

accommodation

Where's a ...?	<i>lphi i ...?</i>	<i>ee-pee ee ...</i>
camping	<i>ibala</i>	<i>ee-b'aa-laa</i>
ground	<i>lokukhempisha</i>	<i>law-k'u-ke-mp'ee-shaa</i>
guesthouse	<i>indlu yamandwendwe</i>	<i>ee-ndlu yaa-maa-ndwe-ndwe</i>
hotel	<i>ihotele</i>	<i>ee-haw-t'e-le</i>
youth hostel	<i>ihostele yolutsha</i>	<i>ee-haw-st'e-le yaw-lu-ch'aa</i>

Can you recommend somewhere cheap/good?

Ungancoma naphina tshipu/kakuhle?
u-ngaa-nk!aw-maa naa-pee-naa ch'ee-p'u/k'aa-k'u-hle

I'd like to book a room, please.

Ndingathanda ukubhukisha igumbi, ndiyacela.
ndee-ngaa-taa-ndaa u-k'u-bu-k'ee-shaa ee-gu-mb'ee ndee-yaa-k!e-laa

I have a reservation.

Ndinamalungiselelo.
ndee-naa-maa-lu-ngee-se-le-law

Do you have	<i>Unalo</i>	<i>u-naa-law</i>
a ... room?	<i>igumbi ...?</i>	<i>ee-gu-mb'ee ...</i>
single	<i>kanye</i>	<i>k'aa-nye</i>
double	<i>kabini</i>	<i>k'aa-b'ee-nee</i>
twin	<i>wele</i>	<i>we-le</i>

How much is it per night/person?

Yimalini ubusuku/umntu?
yee-maa-lee-nee u-b'u-su-k'u/um-nt'u

I'd like to stay for (two) nights.

Ndingathanda ukuhlala ubusuku ka(bini).
ndee-ngaa-taa-ndaa u-k'u-hlaa-laa u-b'u-su-k'u k'aa-(b'ee-nee)

What time is check-out?

Lithini ixesha lokuphonononga phandle?
lee-tee-nee ee-k!e-shaa law-k'u-paw-naw-naw-ngaa-paa-ndle

Am I allowed to camp here?

Ndivumelekile ukukhempisha apha?
ndee-vu-me-le-k'ee-le u-k'u-ke-mp'ee-shaa aa-paa

banking & communications

I'd like to ...	<i>Ndingathanda ...</i>	<i>ndee-ngaa-taa-ndaa ...</i>
arrange a transfer	<i>cwangcisela utshintsho</i>	<i>klwaa-ng!ee-se-laa u-ch'ee-nch'aw</i>
cash a cheque	<i>itsheki yemali</i>	<i>ee-ch'e-k'ee ye-maa-lee</i>
change a travellers cheque	<i>tshintsha itsheki yabahambi</i>	<i>ch'ee-nch'aa ee-ch'ee-k'ee yaa-b'aa-haa-mb'ee</i>
change money	<i>tshintsha imali</i>	<i>ch'ee-nch'aa ee-maa-lee</i>
withdraw money	<i>tsala imali</i>	<i>ts'aa-laa ee-maa-lee</i>

I want to ...

buy a phonecard	<i>Ndifuna uku ...</i>	<i>ndee-fu-naa u-k'u ...</i>
call (Singapore)	<i>thenga ikhadi lokufowuna fowuna e (Singapore)</i>	<i>te-ngaa ee-kaa-dee law-k'u-faw-wu-naa faw-wu-naa e (see-ngaa-p'aw-re)</i>
reverse the charges	<i>buyisela i intlawulo</i>	<i>b'u-yee-se-laa ee ee-nt!aa-wu-law</i>
use a printer	<i>sebenzisa iprinta</i>	<i>se-b'e-nzee-saa ee-pree-nt'aa</i>
use the internet	<i>sebenzisa i intanethi</i>	<i>se-b'e-nzee-saa ee ee-nt'aa-ne-tee</i>

How much is it per hour?

Ingaxabis kangakanani ngeawari?
ee-ngaa-k!aa-b'ee-saa k'aa-ngaa-k'aa-naa-nee nge-aa-waa-ree

How much does a (three-minute) call cost?

Ingaba ixabis kangakanani (imizuzu eyithri) yocingo?
ee-ngaa-b'aa ee-k!aa-b'ee-saa k'aa-ngaa-k'aa-naa-nee (ee-mee-zu-zu e-yee-tree) yaw-k!ee-ngaw

(One rand) per minute/hour.

(Wani randi) umzuzu/ngeawari.
(waa-nee raa-ndee) um-zu-zu/nge-aa-waa-ree

tours

When's the next ...?	<i>Yeyiphi landelayo ...?</i>	ye-yee-pee laa-nde-laa-yaw ...
day trip	<i>usuku lohamba</i>	u-su-k'u law-haa-mb'aa
tour	<i>ukhenketho</i>	u-ke-nk'e-taw
Is ... included?	<i>I ... idityanisiwe?</i>	ee ... dee-ty'aa-nee-see-we
accommodation	<i>indawo yokuhlala</i>	ee-ndaa-waw yaw-k'u-hlaa-laa
the admission charge	<i>ixabiso elibizwayo</i>	ee-k'aa-b'ee-saw e-lee-b'ee-zwaa-yaw
food	<i>intlawulo</i>	ee-ntlaa-wu-law
transport	<i>ukutya isithuthi</i>	u-k'u-ty'aa ee-see-tu-tee
How long is the tour?	<i>Lude kangakanani ukhenketho?</i>	lu-de k'aa-ngaa-k'aa-naa-nee u-ke-nk'e-taw
What time should we be back?	<i>Ngubani ixesha esinokubuya ngalo?</i>	ngu-b'aa-nee ee-k'e-shaa e-see-naw-k'u-b'u-yaa ngaa-law

shopping

I'm looking for ...	<i>Ndifuna ...</i>	ndee-fu-naa ...
I need film for this camera.	<i>Ndifuna ifilimu yekhamera.</i>	ndee-fu-naa ee-fee-lee-mu ye-kaa-me-raa
Can I listen to this?	<i>Ndingamamela le?</i>	ndee-ngaa-maa-me-laa le
Can I have my ... repaired?	<i>Ndiyafuna ilungisiwe ...?</i>	ndee-yaa-fu-naa ee-lu-ngee-swe ...
When will it be ready?	<i>Izakulunga nini?</i>	ee-zaa-k'u-lu-ngaa nee-nee
How much is it?	<i>Yimalini?</i>	yee-maa-li-nee
Can you write down the price?	<i>Ungabhala phantsi ixabiso?</i>	u-ngaa-baa-laa paa-nts'ee ee-k'aa-b'ee-saw

What's your lowest price?

Lithini ixabiso elingezantsi?

lee-tee-nee ee-k'aa-b'ee-saw e-lee-nge-zaa-nts'ee

I'll give you (five) rand.

Ndzakunika (ifayifu) randi.

ndee-zaa-k'u-nee-k'aa (ee-faa-yee-fu) raa-ndee

There's a mistake in the bill.

Ikhona impazamo kwibhili.

ee-kaw-naa ee-mp'aa-zaa-maw k'wee-bee-lee

It's faulty.

lyaphazama.

ee-ya-paa-zaa-maa

I'd like a receipt/refund, please.

*Ndingathanda irisiti/irifandi, ndiyacela.*ndee-ngaa-taa-ndaa ee-ree-see-t'ee/
ee-ree-faa-ndee ndee-yaa-k'le-laa

Do you accept ...?

credit cards
debit cards
travellers
cheques*Uyayamkela ...?
ikhredithi khadi
idebhithi khadi
itsheki
zabahambi*u-yaa-yaam-k'e-laa ...
ee-kre-dee-tee kaa-dee
ee-de-bee-tee kaa-dee
ee-ch'e-k'ee
zaa-b'aa-haa-mb'ee

Could you ...?

burn a CD from
my memory card*Ungakwazi uku ...?
tshisa isidi
kweyam imemori
khadi*u-ngaa-k'waa-zee u-k'u ...
ch'ee-saa ee-see-dee
k'we-yam ee-me-maw-ree
ka-dee
pu-k'lu-laa le ee-fee-lee-mu

develop this film

phucula le ifilimu

making conversation

Hello.

*Molo.**maw-law*

Good night.

*Ubusuku benzolo.**u-b'u-su-k'u b'e-nzaw-law*

Goodbye.

*Usale ngoxolo.**u-saa-le ngaw-k'aw-law*

Mr

*Mhlekaz**mhle-k'aa-zee*

Mrs

*Nkosazana**nk'aw-saa-zaa-naa*

Ms/Miss

*Nenekazi**ne-ne-k'aa-zee*

How are you?

*Kunjani?**k'u-njaa-nee*

Fine, and you?

*Ndiyaphila,
unjani wena?**ndee-yaa-pee-laa
u-njaa-nee we-naa*

What's your name?

*Ngubani
igama lakho?**ngu-b'aa-nee
ee-gaa-maa laa-kaw*

My name's ...

*Igama lam ngu ...**ee-gaa-maa laam ngu ...*

I'm pleased to meet you.	<i>Ndiyavuya ukukwazi.</i>	ndee-yaa-vu-ya u-k'u-k'waa-zee
This is my ... boyfriend brother daughter father friend girlfriend husband mother sister son wife	<i>Yeyam le ... inkwenkwe mntakwethu intombazana utata umhlobo intokazi umyeni umama udade unyana umfazi</i>	<i>ye-yaam le ... ee-nk'we-nk'we mnt'aa-k'we-tu ee-nt'aw-mb'aa-zaa-naa u-t'aa-t'aa um-hlaw-b'aw ee-nt'aw-k'aa-zee u-mye-nee u-maa-maa u-daa-de u-nyaa-naa um-faa-zee</i>
Here's my ... What's your ...? (email) address phone number	<i>Nantsi i ... Ithini i ...? idilesi (yeimeyli) inombolo yefowni</i>	<i>naa-nts'ee ee ... ee-tee-nee ee ... ee-dee-le-see (ye-ee-mey-lee) ee-naw-mb'aw-law ye-faw-wu-nee</i>
Where are you from?	<i>Ungowaphi?</i>	<i>u-ngaw-waa-pee</i>
I'm from ... Australia Canada New Zealand the UK the USA	<i>Ndingowase ... Ostreliya Khanada eNyuzilendi eUK eUSA</i>	<i>ndee-ngaw-waa-se ... aw-stre-lee-yaa kaa-naa-daa e-nyu-zee-le-ndee e-uk' e-u-saa</i>
I'm (not) married. Can I take a photo (of you)?	<i>(Andi)tshatanga. Ndingayithatha ifoto (yakho)?</i>	<i>(aa-ndee-)ch'aa-t'aa-ngaa ndee-ngaa-yee-taa-taa ee-faw-t'aw (yaa-kaw)</i>

eating out

Can you recommend a ...? bar dish place to eat	<i>Ugakwazi ukukhuthaza ...? ibhari isitya indawo yokutya</i>	<i>u-ngaa-k'waa-zee u-k'u-ku-taa-zaa ... ee-baa-ree ee-see-ty'aa ee-ndaa-waw yaw-k'u-ty'aa</i>
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I'd like ..., please. the bill	<i>Ndiyafuna ... inkcukacha ngamaxabiso isazisi itafile (yababini) esasitya</i>	<i>ndee-yaa-fu-naa ... ee-nk!u-k'aa!haa ngaa-maa-k'aa-b'ee-saw e-saa-zee-see ee-t'aa-fee-le (yaa-b'aa-b'ee-nee) e-saa-see-ty'aa</i>
the menu a table for (two)		
that dish		
Do you have vegetarian food?	<i>Unakho ukutya kwe vejitheriyeni?</i>	<i>u-naa-kaw u-k'u-ty'aa k'we ve-jee-te-ree-ye-nee</i>
Could you prepare a meal without ...? eggs meat stock	<i>Ungalungiselela isidlo ngaphandle ...? amaqanda umhluzi</i>	<i>u-ngaa-lu-ngee-se-le-laa ee-see-dlaw ngaa-paa-ndle ... aa-maa-k'jaa-ndaa um-hlu-zee</i>
(cup of) coffee ... (cup of) tea ... with milk without sugar	<i>(ikopi) yekofu ... (ikopi) yeti ... nobisi ngaphandle kweswekile</i>	<i>(ee-k'aw-p'ee) ye-k'aw-fu ... (ee-kaw-p'ee) ye-t'ee ... naw-b'ee-see ngaa-paa-ndle k'we-swe-k'ee-le</i>
(boiled) water	<i>amanzi (ashushu)</i>	<i>aa-maa-nzee (aa-shu-shu)</i>

emergencies

Help! I'm lost.	<i>Uncedo! Ndilahlekile.</i>	<i>u-nle-daw ndee-laa-hle-k'ee-le</i>
Call ...! an ambulance a doctor the police	<i>Biza ...! iambulensi ugqirha amapolisa</i>	<i>b'ee-zaa ... ee-aa-mb'u-le-nsee u-gjee-khaa aa-maa-paw-lee-saa</i>
Could you help me, please? <i>Ungandincea, ndiyakucela?</i>		<i>u-ngaa-ndee-nkle-daa ndee-yaa-k'u-kle-laa</i>
Where are the toilets? <i>Ziphi itoylethi?</i>		<i>zee-pee ee-taw-yee-le-tee</i>
I want to report an offence. <i>Ndifuna ukuchaza iofensi.</i>		<i>ndee-fu-naa uk'u-kh!aa-zaa ee-aw-fe-nsee</i>
I have insurance. <i>Ndine inshorensi.</i>		<i>ndee-ne ee-nshaw-re-nsee</i>

I want to contact my consulate/embassy.

Ndifuna ukhontaktha umzi/ ndee-fu-naa u-kaw-nt'aa-k'taa um-zee/
kamazakuzaku. kaa-maa-zaa-k'u-zaa-k'u

I've been assaulted.	<i>Ndibethiwe.</i>	ndee-be-tee-we
I've been raped.	<i>Ndidlwengulwe.</i>	ndee-dlwe-ngu-lwe
I've been robbed.	<i>Ndirojiwe.</i>	ndee-raw-jee-we
I've lost my ...	<i>Ndilahlakelwe ...</i>	ndee-laa-hle-k'e-lwe ...
My ... was/were stolen.	<i>Eyam ... ibiwe.</i>	e-yam ... ee-b'ee-we
bags	<i>ibhegi</i>	ee-be-gee
credit card	<i>ikhadi lekhrediti</i>	ee-kaa-dee le-kre-dee-tee
handbag	<i>ibhegi yesandla</i>	ee-be-gee ye-saa-ndlaa
jewellery	<i>ijuwelari</i>	ee-ju-we-laa-ree
money	<i>imali</i>	ee-maa-lee
passport	<i>ipaspoti</i>	ee-paas-paw-t'ee
travellers cheques	<i>iitsheki</i>	ee-ch'e-k'ee
	<i>zabahambi</i>	zaa-b'aa-haa-mb'ee
wallet	<i>iwolethi</i>	ee-waw-le-tee

medical needs

Where's the nearest ...?	<i>Yeyiphi kufutshane ...?</i>	ye-yee-pee k'u-fu-ch'aa-ne ...
dentist	<i>ugqirha wamazinyo</i>	u-gjee-khaa waa-maa-zee-nyaw
doctor	<i>ugqirha</i>	u-gjee-khaa
hospital	<i>isibhedlele</i>	ee-see-be-dle-le
pharmacist	<i>ifamas</i>	ee-faa-maa-see

I need a doctor (who speaks English).

Ndifuna ugqirha ndee-fu-naa u-gjee-khaa
(othetha isingesi). (aw-te-taa ee-see-nge-see)

Could I see a female doctor?

Ndinakho ukubona ugqirha ndee-naa-kaw u-k'u-b'aw-naa u-gjee-khaa
obhinqileyo? aw-bee-njee-le-yaw

It hurts here.

Kubuhlungu apha. k'u-b'u-hlu-ngu aa-paa

I'm allergic to (penicillin).

Andidibani ne (penisilini). aa-ndee-dee-b'aa-nee ne (p'e-nee-see-lee-nee)

english–xhosa dictionary

In this dictionary, words are marked as n (noun), a (adjective), v (verb), sg (singular), pl (plural), inf (informal) and pol (polite) where necessary.

A

accommodation *indawo yokuhlala*
ee-ndaa-waw yaw-k'u-hlaa-laa
adaptor *iadaptsha* ee-aa-daa-ptaa
after *emva* e-mvaa
airport *isitishi senqwelomoya*
ee-see-t'ee-shee se-nlwe-law-maw-yaa
alcohol *utywala* u-tywaa-laa
all onke aw-nk'e
and na naa
ankle *iqatha* ee-jaa-taa
antibiotics *ijeza lokubulala intsholongwane*
ee-ye-zaa law-k'u-b'u-laa-laa
ee-nch'aw-law-ngwaa-nee
anti-inflammatories *amayeza okukrala*
aa-maa-ye-zaa aw-k'u-kraa-laa
arm *ingalo* ee-ngaa-law
aspirin *ijeza lokudambisa intlungu nefiva*
ee-ye-zaa law-k'u-daa-mb'ee-saa ee-ntlu-ngu
ne-fee-vaa
asthma *umbefu* u-mb'e-fu
ATM *umatshini wokugcina imali*
u-maa-ch'ee-nee waw-k'u-glee-naa ee-maa-lee

B

baby *usana* u-saa-naa
back (body) *emva* e-mvaa
backpack *ingxowa oyithwala ngomqolo*
ee-ngk'aw-waa aw-yee-twaa-laa ngaw-mjaw-law
bad *khohlakeleyo* kaw-hlaa-k'e-le-yaw
bank *ibhanki* ee-baa-nk'ee
bathroom *igumbi lokuhlamba*
ee-gu-mb'ee law-k'u-hlaa-mb'aa
battery *ibhetri* ee-bee-tree
beautiful *hle hle*
bed *ibhedi* ee-bee-dee
beer *ibhiya* ee-bee-yaa
bees *iinyosi* ee-nyaw-see
before *ngaphambili* ngaa-paa-mb'ee-lee
bicycle *ibhayisikili* ee-baa-yee-see-k'ee-lee
big *khulu* ku-lu
blanket *ingubo* ee-ngu-b'aw
blood group *udididi lwegazi* u-dee-dee lwe-gaa-zee
bottle *ibhotile* ee-baw-t'ee-le

bottle opener *isivuli bhotile* ee-see-vu-lee baw-t'ee-le
boy *inkwenkwe* ee-nkwe-nkwe
brakes (car) *ibreki zemoto* ee-bre-k'ee ze-maw-t'aw
breakfast *isidlo sakusasa* ee-see-dlaw saa-k'u-saa-saa
bronchitis *isifo semibhobho yemiphunga*
ee-see-faw se-mee-baw-baw ye-mee-pu-ngaa

C

café *ikhefi* ee-ke-fee
cancel *rhexisa* khaw-k'jee-saa
can opener *isivuli kani* ee-see-vu-lee k'aa-nee
cash n *imali* ee-maa-lee
cell phone *iselifowuni* ee-se-lee-faw-wu-nee
centre n *umbindi* u-mb'ee-ndee
cheap *tshipu* ch'ee-pu
check (bill) *ibhili* ee-bee-lee
check-in n *ikhawuntara yokuzazisa*
ee-kaa-wu-nt'aa-raa yaw-k'u-zaa-zee-saa
chest *isifuba* ee-see-fu-baa
child *umntwana* um-nt'waa-naa
cigarette *isigarethi* ee-see-gaw-re-tee
city *isixeko* ee-see-k'je-kaw
clean a *coca* klaw-klaa
closed *valiwe* vaa-lee-we
codeine *ikhowudhini* ee-kaw-wu-dhee-nee
cold a *banda* b'aa-ndaa
collect call *irivesikholi* ee-ree-ve-see-kaw-lee
condom *ikhondom* ee-kaw-ndawm
constipation *ukuqhina kwesisu*
u-k'u-jhee-naa k'we-see-su
cough n *ukhohlakhohlo* u-kaw-hlaw-kaw-hlaw
customs (immigration) *indawo yongenelelo*
ee-ndaa-waw yaw-nge-ne-le-law

D

dairy products *imveliso yasederi*
ee-mve-lee-saw yaa-se-de-ree
dangerous *ingozi* ee-ngaw-zee
date (time) *ideyithi* ee-de-ye-tee
day *usuku* u-su-k'u
diaper *isishuba* ee-see-shu-b'aa
diarrhoea *urhudo* u-ru-daw
dinner *isidlo sangokuhlwa*
ee-see-dlaw saa-ngaw-k'u-hlwaa

dirty *mdaka mdaa-k'aa*
disabled *olimazekileyo* aw-lee-maa-ze-k'ee-le-yaw
double bed *ibhedi eyenzelwe abantu ababini*
 ee-be-dee e-ye-nze-lwe a-b'a-nt'u a-b'a-b'ee-nee
drink \square *isiselo* ee-see-se-law
drivers licence *isazisi sokuqhuba*
 ee-saa-zee-see saw-k'u-jhu-b'aa
drug (illicit) *isiyobisi* ee-see-yaw-b'ee-see

E

ear *indlebe* ee-ndle-b'e
east *mpumalanga* mp'u-maa-laa-ngaa
elevator *ieliveyitha* ee-e-lee-ve-ye-tee
email \square *i-imeyili* ee-ee-me-ye-lee
English (language) *ulwimi lwesingesi*
 u-lwee-mee lwe-see-nge-see
exchange rate *utshintsho mali* u-ch'ee-nch'aw maa-lee
exit \square *indawo yokuphuma*
 ee-ndaa-waw yaw-k'u-pu-maa
expensive *duru du-ru*
eye *imehlo* ee-me-hlaw

F

fast *khawuleza* ka-wu-le-zaa
fever *ifiva* ee-fee-vaa
finger *umnwe* um-nwe
first-aid kit *ikiti yoncedo lokuqala*
 ee-k'ee-t'ee yaw-nkle-daw law-k'u-kjaa-laa
first class *iklasi yokuqala* ee-k'laa-see yaw-k'u-kjaa-laa
fish \square *intlantsi* ee-ntlaa-nts'ee
food *ukutya* u-k'u-ty'aa
foot *unyawo* u-nyaa-waw
fork *ifolokhwe* ee-faw-law-kwe
free (of charge) *simahla* see-maa-hlaa
fruit *isiqhamo* ee-see-kjaa-maw
funny *hlekisayo* hle-k'ee-saa-yaw

G

game park *indawo yokugcina izilwanyana*
 ee-ndaa-waw yaw-k'u-glee-naa
 ee-zee-lwaa-nyaa-naa
gift *isipho* ee-see-paw
girl *intombi* ee-nt'aw-mb'ee
glass (drinking) *iglas* ee-glaa-see
glasses *izipeki* ee-zee-p'e-k'ee
gluten *ncangathi n'laa-ngaa-tee*
good *lungileyo* lu-nge-ye-le-yaw
gram *umlinganis* wobunzima
 um-lee-ngaa-nee-saw waw-b'u-nzee-maa
guide \square *inkokheli* ee-nk'aw-ke-lee

H

hand *isandla* ee-saa-ndlaa
happy *vuya vu-yaa*
have *ukuba na u-k'u-baa naa*
he u-(followed by name) u-
head *intloko* ee-ntlaw-k'aw
headache *intloko ebuhlungu*
 ee-ntlaw-k'aw e-bu-hlu-ngu
heart *intliziyo* ee-ntlee-zee-yaw
heart condition *isifo sentliziyo*
 ee-see-faw se-ntlee-zee-yaw
heat \square *ubushushu* u-b'u-shu-shu
here *apha aa-paa*
high *phezulu* pee-zu-lu
highway *indlela enkulu* ee-ndle-laa e-nk'u-lu
hot *shushu shu-shu*
hungry *lambile* laa-mb'ee-le

I

I i ee
identification (card) *ikhadi yelD* ee-kaa-dee ye-eed
ill *gula gu-laa*
important *baluleka* b'aa-lu-le-k'aa
internet *intanethi* ee-nt'aa-ne-tee
interpreter *itoliki* ee-t'aw-lee-k'ee

J

job *umsebenzi* um-se-b'e-nzee

K

key *isitshixo* ee-see-tsee-jaw
kilogram *ikhilogramu* ee-kee-law-graa-mu
kitchen *ikhitshi* ee-kee-ch'ee
knife *imela* ee-me-laa

L

laundry (place) *indawo yokuhlamba impahla*
 ee-ndaa-waw yaw-k'u-hlaa-mb'aa ee-mp'aa-hlaa
lawyer *iqhwetha* ee-kh'jwe-taa
leg *umlenze* um-le-nze
less *nganeno* ngaa-ne-naw
letter (mail) *ileta* ee-le-t'aa
like \vee *thanda* taa-ndaa
love \vee *uthando* u-taa-ndaw
lunch *isidlo sasemini* ee-see-dlaw saa-se-mee-nee

M

man *indoda* ee-ndaw-daa
matches *imatshisi* ee-maa-ch'ee-see
meat *inyama* ee-nyaa-maa
medicine *ijeza* ee-ye-zaa
message *umyalezo* um-yaa-le-zaw
mobile phone *ifowuni onokuhambanayo*
 ee-faw-wu-nee aw-naw-k'u-haa-mb'aa-naa-yaw
month *inyanga* ee-nyaa-ngaa
morning *kusasa* k'u-saa-saa
motorcycle *isithuthuthu* ee-see-tu-tu-tu
mouth *umlomo* um-law-maw
MSG *imsg* ee-m-s-g
museum *imuziyam* ee-mu-zee-yam
music *umculo* um-lu-law

N

name \square *igama* ee-gaa-maa
napkin *iseviyeti* ee-se-vee-ye-t'ee
nappy *isishuba* ee-see-shu-b'aa
nausea *ubucaphucaphu* u-bu-laa-pu-laa-pu
neck *intamo* ee-nt'aa-maw
new *ntsha* nch'aa
news *indaba* ee-ndaa-b'aa
newspaper *iphephandaba* ee-pe-paa-ndaa-b'aa
night *ubusuku* u-b'u-su-k'u
noisy *ngxolayo* ng-law-laa-yaw
nonsmoking *akutshaywa* aa-k'u-ch'aa-ywaa
north *entla* e-ntlaa
nose *impumlo* ee-mp'u-mlaw
now *ngoku ngaw-k'u*
number *inani* ee-naa-nee
nuts *amaqhele* aa-maa-kh'je-le

O

oil (engine) *ioyile* ee-aw-ye-lee
old *ndala ndaa-laa*
open \square *vulekileyo* vu-le-k'ee-le-yaw
outside *ngaphandle* ngaa-paa-ndle

P

package *impahla* ee-mp'aa-hlaa
pain *intlungu* ee-ntlu-ngu
palace *ibhotwe* ee-baw-t'we
paper *iphepha* ee-pe-paa
park (car) \vee *pakisha* p'aa-k'ee-shaa
passport *ipaspoti* ee-p'aa-see-paw-t'ee
pay *umvuzo* u-mvu-zaw

pen *usiba* u-see-b'aa
petrol *ipetroli* ee-p'e-traw-lee
pharmacy *ifamasi* ee-faa-maa-see
plate *ipletyiti* ee-ple-ye-t'ee
postcard *iposikhadi* ee-p'aw-see-kaa-dee
post office *iposi ofisi* ee-p'aw-see aw-fee-see
pregnant *khuleweyo* ku-le-lwe-yaw

R

rain \square *invula* ee-mvu-laa
razor *ireyiza* ee-re-ye-zaa
registered mail *iposi ebhaliswayo*
 ee-p'aw-see e-baa-lee-swaa-yaw
rent \vee *irente* ee-re-nt'ee
repair \vee *lungisa* lu-ngee-saa
reservation *isigcinelo* ee-see-glee-ne-law
restaurant *iresty* ee-re-sty'u
return \vee *buyela* b'u-ye-laa
road *indlela* ee-ndle-laa
room *igumbi* ee-gu-mb'ee

S

sad *lusizi* lu-see-zee
safe \square *gcinakeleyo* glee-naa-k'e-le-yaw
sanitary napkin *iphedi* ee-pe-dee
seafood *ukutya kwaselwandle*
 u-k'u-ty'aa k'waa-se-lwaa-ndle
seat *isihlalo* ee-see-hlaa-law
send *thumela* tu-me-laa
sex *isini* ee-see-nee
shampoo *ishampu* ee-shaa-mp'u
share (a dorm, etc) *ukwabelana ngegumbi*
 uk'waa-b'e-laa-naa nge-gu-mb'ee
shaving cream *ikhrimu yokusheva*
 ee-kree-mu yaw-k'u-she-vaa
she *uno* (followed by name) un-aw
sheet (bed) *isithi* ee-shee-t'ee
shirt *ihempe* ee-he-mp'e
shoes *izihlangu* ee-zee-hlaa-ngu
shop \square *ivenkile* ee-ve-nk'ee-le
shower \square *ishawari* ee-shaa-waa-ree
skin *ulusu* u-lu-su
skirt *isiketi* ee-see-k'e-t'ee
sleep \vee *lala laa-laa*
small *ncinci* n!ee-n!ee
smoke (cigarettes) \vee *tshaya tshaa-yaa*
soap *isepha* ee-se-paa
some *inxenye* ee-n!-nye
soon *kamsinya* k'aa-msee-nyaa
sores throat *umqala obuhlungu*
 um-kjaa-laa aw-b'u-hlu-ngu

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south *mzantsi mzaa-nts'ee*
souvenir shop *ivenkile ethengisa izikhumbuzo*
ee-ve-nk'ee-le e-te-ngee-saa e-zee-ku-mb'u-zaw
speak *thetha te-taa*
spoon *icephe ee-kle-pe*
stamp *n isitampu ee-see-t'aa-mp'u*
stand-by ticket *itikiti lokulinda*
ee-t'ee-k'ee-t'ee law-k'u-lee-ndaa
station (train) *isitishi ee-see-t'ee-shee*
stomach *isisu ee-see-su*
stop *v ima ee-maa*
stop (bus) *n indawo yokumisa*
ee-ndaa-waw yaw-k'u-mee-saa
street *isitalato ee-see-t'aa-laa-t'aw*
student *umfundi u-mfu-ndee*
sunscreen *ikhrimu yokukhusela ilanga*
ee-kree-mu yaw-k'u-ku-se-laa ee-laa-ngaa
swim *v ukuqubha u-k'u-kju-baa*

T

tampons *iithamponi ee-taa-mp'aw-nee*
teeth *amazinyo aa-maa-zee-nyaw*
telephone *n ifowuni ee-faw-wu-nee*
television *umabonakude u-maa-b'aw-naa-k'u-de*
temperature (weather) *iqondo lobushushu*
ee-kjaw-ndaw law-b'u-shu-shu
tent *intente ee-nt'e-nt'e*
that (one) *leya (inye) le-yaa (e-nyee)*
they *bona b'aw-naa*
thirsty *nxaniwe n'aa-nee-we*
this (one) *le (kanye) le (k'aa-nye)*
throat *umqala um-kjaa-laa*
ticket *itikiti ee-t'ee-k'ee-t'ee*
time *ixesha ee-kje-shaa*
tired *diniwe dee-nee-we*
tissues *ithishu ee-tee-shu*
today *namhlanje naam-hlaa-nje*
toilet *ithoyilethi ee-taw-yee-le-tee*
tonight *ngokuhlwa ngaw-k'u-hlwaa*
toothache *izinyo elibuhlungu*
ee-zee-nyaw e-lee-b'u-hlu-ngu
toothbrush *ibrashi yokuxukuxa amazinyo*
ee-b'raa-shee yaw-k'u-kju-k'u-k'aa aa-maa-zee-nyaw
toothpaste *intlama yamazinyo*
ee-ntlaa-maa yaa-maa-zee-nyaw
torch (flashlight) *itotshi ee-t'aw-ch'ee*
tourist office *iofisi yabacandi-zwe*
ee-aw-fee-see yaa-b'aa-klaa-ndee-zwe
towel *itawuli ee-t'aa-wu-lee*
translate *guqula gu-kju-laa*

travel agency *umlungiseleli hambu*
um-lu-ngee-se-le-lee haa-mb'aw
travellers cheque *itsheki yabahambi*
ee-ch'e-k'ee yaa-b'aa-haa-mb'ee
trousers *iibhulukhwe ee-bu-lu-kwe*
twin beds *iibhedi ezimbini ezifanayo*
ee-be-dee e-zee-mb'ee-nee e-zee-faa-naa-yaw
tyre *ithayara ee-taa-yaa-raa*

U

underwear *isinxibo sangaphantsi*
ee-see-n'ee-b'aw saa-ngaa-paa-nts'ee
urgent *ngxamiseka ng'aa-mee-se-k'aa*

V

vacant *ngenanto nge-naa-nt'aw*
vegetable *n umfuno um-fu-naw*
vegetarian *a utya izihluma u-ty'aa ee-zee-hlu-maa*
visa *iviza ee-vee-zaa*

W

waiter *iweyita ee-we-yee-t'aa*
walk *v hamba haa-mb'aa*
wallet *isipaji ee-see-p'aa-jee*
warm *a fudumeleyo fu-du-me-le-yaw*
wash (something) *vasa vaa-saa*
watch *n iwotshi ee-waw-ch'ee*
water *amanzi aa-maa-nzee*
we *thina tee-naa*
weekend *impelaveki ee-mp'e-laa-ve-k'ee*
west *ntshona nch'aw-naa*
wheelchair *isitulo esinamavili*
ee-see-t'u-law e-see-naa-maa-vee-lee
when *nini nee-nee*
where *phi pee*
who *bani b'aa-nee*
why *kutheni k'u-te-nee*
window *ifestile ee-fe-st'ee-le*
wine *iwayini ee-waa-yee-nee*
with *na naa*
without *ngaphandle ngaa-paa-ndle*
woman *umfazi um-faa-zee*
write *bhala baa-laa*

Y

you *sg inf/pol wena/nawe we-naa/naa-we*
you *pl inf/pol nina/thina nee-naa/tee-naa*

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