

CHAPTER I.

PRONUNCIATION.

Although Afrikaans, with but few inconsistencies — very few indeed — is a language almost entirely phonetically written, we fully realise the many difficulties that will arise when a first attempt is made to acquire a knowledge of it.

Firstly the student, during the course of his studies, meets with words, phrases, clauses and sentences with which he is altogether unfamiliar as a direct result of the difference in the pronunciation of the various symbols used in Afrikaans.

Secondly, the facilities offered English speaking students to acquire a knowledge of Afrikaans by hearing it spoken are not as abundant in the city as in the town.

In view of these difficulties, we have endeavoured to give the student an idea of the difference that exists in the pronunciation of the Afrikaans symbols. It must be clearly understood however, that correct pronunciation can be obtained only by *hearing* these symbols pronounced properly. We have, therefore, given English words in which there are incorporated sounds similar to those existing in Afrikaans.

Such a comparison with a view to indicate similarity of sound is an approximation at most and correct pattern of sounds is therefore indispensable.

The Afrikaans Alphabet consists of 26 symbols, but the *e*, *q*, *x* and *z* are only used in proper names.

e is substituted by *k* or *s* according to the sound of the word, e.g. "Aksent" — "Accent" and "Kat" — "Cat",

q(u) by kw as in "Kwartaal" — "Quarter", x by ks as in "Eksamen" — "Examination" and z by s as in "Sink" — "Zinc".

PRONUNCIATION.

a — English ah!

b, d, e, f, l, m, n, p, s, t (the pronunciation of these symbols is the same as that of English, except that the sound is a little broader).

g — as the "ch" in Scotch "Loch" + e.

h — English h + ah!

i — i as in English "it".

j — ye as in English "Year".

k — English k + ah!

o — oo as in the English "poor".

r — er as in English "very".

u — *Afrikaans* i (with the lips rounded).

v — a little broader than the English "fee".

w — " " " " " " " "v".

y — English "a" as in "Bay".

NOTE: It is most important that students should, at the outset, learn to use the Afrikaans symbols when spelling in Afrikaans, otherwise the spelling, later, will be severely hampered.

VOWEL SOUNDS.

Long Vowels: aa as in maan, gaan, raam, staan, slaan.
 ee ,, ,, meer, beer, teer, keer, veer.
 oo ,, ,, poot, skoot, lood, boom, room.
 uu ,, ,, muur, duur, vuur, stuur, uur.

Short Vowels: a as in kat, mat, pad, dat, sat.
 e ,, ,, bed, wet, met, vet, het.
 i ,, ,, pit, dit, rit, wit, sit.
 o ,, ,, pot, rot, mot, bot, sot.
 u ,, ,, buk, ruk, rug, mud, sug.

- (a) Before the following exercises are attempted, it should be noted that, in Afrikaans, there are only two articles (Lidwoorde) viz. **DIE** and **'N** pronounced respectively as the (di) in "Diction" and the nasal sound of the second "n" in "none". **DIE** is equivalent to the English article "the" and 'n to either "a" or "an".
- (b) Syllables can be closed or open; a closed syllable is that which ends in a consonant, and an open syllable one which ends in a vowel.

Long vowels in closed syllables are written with a double vowel-sign: Muur (wall); boom (tree); traan (a tear); week (week). In open syllables the vowel-signs are not doubled although the long *vowel-sound* is retained in the pronunciation: Mure (walls); bome (trees); trane (tears); and weke (weeks).

If short vowels occur in closed syllables, the consonants are doubled in open syllables: Man (man) manne; pen (pen) penne; bom (bomb) bomme; put (a well) putte.

PRONOUNCE CORRECTLY AND STUDY THE FOLLOWING.

Long Vowels (Closed syllables).			Long Vowels (Open syllables).		
loop	—	walk.	loper	—	walker.
maak	—	make.	maker	—	maker.
lees	—	read.	leser	—	reader.
straat	—	street.	strate	—	streets.
muur	—	wall.	mure	—	walls.
boot	—	boat.	bote	—	boats.
jaar	—	year.	jare	—	years.
kaas	—	cheese.	kase	—	cheeses.
maan	—	moon.	mane	—	moons.
haar	—	hair, her.	hare	—	hairs, her's.

Short Vowels (Closed syllables).			Short Vowels (Open syllables).		
kam	—	comb.	kamme	—	combs.
dam	—	dam.	damme	—	dams.
kat	—	cat.	katte	—	cats.
pot	—	pot.	potte	—	pots.
les	—	a lesson.	lesse	—	lessons.
bok	—	goat.	bokke	—	goats.
mud	—	mude (bag).	mudde	—	mudes (bags).
lem	—	blade (of a knife).	lemme	—	blades.
hen	—	hen.	henne	—	hens.
nul	—	nil.	nulle	—	nils.

Read aloud and translate the following exercise:

- (1).
1. Die kat sit op die mat.
 2. 'n Man staan in die pad.
 3. In die kas staan 'n pan.
 4. Die lat is dun.
 5. Die pot het 'n poot.
 6. Die man staan by die raam.
 7. Die maan skyn in die kamer.
 8. Die kat speel op die tafel.
 9. Hy buk oor die tafel.
 10. Die heer speel met die beer.
 11. Die man sit by die tafel.
 12. Die koring is baie duur.
- (2). Translate:
1. The man plays with the child.
 2. We live in a city.
 3. He learns a lesson in Afrikaans.
 4. I write with a pen.
 5. We make a box.

6. John plays with the ball.
7. There is a hole in the wall.
8. My father and mother work in the town.
9. My brother writes a letter.
10. The child smokes the pipe of his father.
11. He walks with his sister in the path to the school.
12. The books on the rack belong to John.

WOORDELYS - VOCABULARY.

(1) Pad	—	road, (path).	(2) child	—	kind.
kas	—	cupboard.	live	—	woon.
lat	—	cane.	city	—	stad.
dun	—	thin.	learns	—	leer.
poof	—	leg.	write	—	skryf.
raam	—	frame, (window).	there	—	daar.
skyn	—	shine.	hole	—	gat.
kamer	—	room.	wall	—	muur.
speel	—	play.	work	—	werk.
tafel	—	table.	town	—	dorp.
buk	—	bend.	brother	—	broer.
oor	—	over.	letter	—	brief.
heer	—	gentleman.	smokes	—	rook.
beer	—	bear.	walks	—	loop.
koring	—	corn.	sister	—	suster.
duur	—	expensive.	rack	—	rak.
			belong	—	behoort.

CHAPTER 2.

VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGS.

ai	as in	baie	(much).
aai	„ „	baaie	(bays, baths — mineral baths).
eu	„ „	deur	(door, through, by).
eeu	„ „	leeu	(lion).
ei	„ „	reis	(journey).
y	„ „	rys	(rice, rise).
oe	„ „	boek	(book).
oi	„ „	toiings	(rags).
ooi	„ „	mooi	(pretty).
oei	„ „	koei	(cow).
ui	„ „	huis	(house).
ou	„ „	vrou	(wife, woman).
ie	„ „	bier	(beer).

NOTE: Although **TENSE** is dealt with later, it would not be out of place to mention that, in Afrikaans we have a Progressive Tense but it is not so extensively used as in English. “Die dame sing” may be translated either as “The lady sings” or “The lady is singing”.

This may also be written “Die dame is aan die sing”.

Very careful attention should be paid to the use of:

- (a) Circumflex (\wedge) — Kappie, kappetjie (Eng. bonnet, hood) which is mostly used over the e and always has a **bleating** sound as in “Blêr” (to bleat), “skêr” (a pair

of scissors) etc. In a few cases it is used over the **o** as in “nôi” (mistress), “môre” (morning); over the **u** as in “rûens”, the plural of “rug” (ridge), and very rarely over the **i** as in “wîe” the plural of “wig” (a wedge).

In conjunction with this, it must be remembered that the (^) is not used in words where **r** is followed by a consonant, e. g. “wêreld” but “werd, stert”.

- (b) Dieresis (¨) — “Deelteken” — is used over the **e** where a doubt exists as to the number or division of syllables when two vowels come together, e. g. “Seë”, the plural of “see” (sea), containing two syllables, is written with the dieresis over the last **e** to distinguish it from the monosyllabic singular, “see”.

It is also used in words where one is apt, when too many vowels come together, to pronounce it as one sound, e.g. “Geëet” (ate), “beïnvloed” (influenced), “geïllustreer” (illustrated).

Read aloud and translate:

1. Die man lees 'n baie mooi boek.
2. Die seun is baie flink in sy klas.
3. Ek het 'n groot huis naby die baai.
4. Die jagter skiet die leeu deur die been.
5. 'n Mens kan rys in die winkel koop.
6. Daardie koei van die vrou gee baie melk.
7. Vir daardie huis was daar nie 'n bod nie.
8. Ek sê jou hy sal nie kom nie.
9. Hierdie kaffer het in die tuin gelê.
10. Die nôi het vandag gaan kuier.
11. “Die Huisgenoot” is 'n mooi geïllustreerde weekblad.
12. Ek het gisteraand by my kollega geëet.
13. My oom se ¹⁾ perd is baie werd.

¹⁾ See pag. 21.

14. Baie brûe het gedurende die laaste reëns verspoel.
 15. Hy vertel vir sy broer 'n interessante verhaal.

NOTE: It will be noticed that the last sentence (literally translated) reads "He tells **to** his brother an interesting story" — a construction somewhat old fashioned when compared with English. It must be remembered, however, that this is nothing new in construction and must therefore be considered a revival of the old English **Dative Case**; as the preposition akin to the Dative in English is now generally omitted.

WOORDELYS — VOCABULARY.

Seun	—	boy, son.	vandag	—	to-day.
flink	—	clever, brisk.	kuier	—	visit.
naby	—	near.	weekblad	—	weekly paper (periodical).
jagter	—	hunter.	gisteraand	—	last night.
'n mens	—	one (ind. pro- noun).	kollega	—	colleague.
winkel	—	shop.	werd	—	worth.
koop	—	buy.	gedurende	—	during.
daardie	—	that, those.	verspoel	—	wash away.
bod	—	bid.	verhaal	—	story.
sê	—	say, tell.	hierdie	—	this, these.
lê	—	lie.	dit	—	it.

CHAPTER 3.

SELFSTANDIGE NAAMWOORD — NOUN.

The noun is inflected in four ways:

(I) Geslag — Gender; (II) Getal (voud) — Number; (III) Verkleinwoorde — Diminutives; (IV) Naamval — Case.

(I). GESLAG — GENDER.

There are four genders: Masculine (manlik); Feminine (vroulik); Common (gemeen); and Neuter (onsydig). Living beings are classified as Masculine, Feminine or Common, and inanimate objects as Neuter.

The Feminine is formed from the Masculine in three ways:

1. **By suffixes:** **-iese**: (generally for foreign words in **-or**, and **-eur**).
-e; **-es**; **-in**.
-ster: (added to a Masculine noun derived from a verb).

Examples:	Mas.	Fem.
(a) -iese :	Akteur (actor)	Aktriese.
	Lektor (lecturer)	Lektriese.
	Direkteur (director)	Direktriese.
	Eksaminator (examiner)	Eksaminatriese.

Examples:	Mas.	Fem.
(b) -e:	Orrelis (organist)	Orreliste.
	Pianis (pianist)	Pianiste.
	Eggenoot (husband)	Eggenote.
	Tesourier (treasurer)	Tesouriere.
(c) -es:	Digter (poet)	Digteres.
	Prins (prince)	Prinses.
	Sanger (singer)	Sangeres.
	Voog (guardian)	Voogdes.
(d) -in:	Boer (farmer)	Boerin.
	Vriend (friend)	Vriendin.
	Held (hero)	Heldin.
	Vors (Monarch)	Vorstin.
(e) -ster:	Werker (worker)	Werkster.
	Bakker (bakker)	Bakster.
	Skrywer (writer)	Skryfster.
	Tikker (typist)	Tikster.

2. By using separate words:

Swaer, Skoonbroer (brother-in-law)	Skoonsuster.
Seun (boy)	Dogter.
Vader (father)	Moeder.
Broer (brother)	Suster.
Baas (master)	Nôï, nooi.
Oupa (grandfather)	Ouma.

3. By the words: Mannetjie (male).

Mannetjie-eend (drake)	Wyfie (female).
Mannetjie-kat (tom-cat)	Wyfie-eend.
Mannetjie-tier (tiger)	Wyfie-kat.
Mannetjie-duif (pigeon)	Tierwyfie.
	Wyfie-duif.

(II). GETAL — NUMBER.

Number can be Singular (enkelvoud) which denotes one thing, or Plural (meervoud) which denotes more than one thing. The Plural is formed by adding to the Singular:

-e; -te; -s; -ere; -ers.

Examples:	Enkelvoud.	Meervoud.
-e:	Raam (frame) (window)	Rame.
	Boom (tree)	Bome.
	Orkaan (hurricane)	Orkane.
	Lemoen (orange)	Lemoene.
	Parlement (parliament)	Parlemente.
	Sekretaris (secretary)	Sekretarisse.
-te:	Amp (profession)	Ampte.
	Vrug (fruit)	Vrugte.
	Geslag (generation)	Geslagte.
	nag (night)	Nagte.
-s:	Lafaard (coward)	Lafaards.
	Bedelaar (beggar)	Bedelaars.
	Sondaar (sinner)	Sondaars.
	Komitee (committee)	Komitees.
-ere:	Goed (goods)	Goedere.
	Gemoed (mind)	Gemoedere.
	Lied (song)	Liedere.
-ers:	Kind (child)	Kinders.
	Kalf (calf)	Kalwers.
	Maat (comrade)	Maters.
	Klip (stone)	Klippers (klippe).

Onreëlmatige Meervoude (Irregular Plurals).

Dag (day)	Dae.
Glas (glass)	Glase.
Slag (blow)	Slae.

Vat (vat)	Vate.
Pad (path, road)	Paaie.
Bad (hot spring)	Baaie.
Gevoel (feelings)	Gevoelens.
Nôï (mistress)	Nôïens.
Wa (waggon)	Waens.

Some Nouns have two plurals with different meanings:

Maat	{	Mate (measurements)
		Maters, makkers, maats (comrades)
Blad	{	Blaaie (leaves of a book)
		Blare (leaves of a tree)
Saal	{	Saals (saddles)
		Sale (halls)
Skof	{	Skowwe (hump of an ox or camel)
		Skofte (shifts)
Las	{	Laste (loads, difficulties)
		Lasse (joints)
Bas	{	Basse (music. term)
		Baste (bark of trees)

(III). VERKLEINWOORDE — DIMINUTIVES.

Diminutives are formed by the following suffixes:

-ie; -pie; -jie; -tjie; -etjie.

Examples:

-ie: Duif (pigeon) — Duifie.	Huis (house) — Huisie.
Stof (dust) — Stoffie.	Boek (book) — Boekie.
Muis (mouse) — Muisie.	Kerk (church) — Kerkie.
Ploeg (plough) — Ploegie.	Oog (eye) — Ogie.

Examples:

-pie: Oom (uncle) — Oompie.	Lamp (lamp) — Lampie.
Skelm (rogue) — Skelmpie.	Arm (arm) — Armpie.
Besem (broom) — Besempie.	Album (album) — Albumpie.
-jie: Voet (foot) — Voetjie.	Meid (servant) — Meidjie.
Woord (word) — Woordjie.	Vat (vat) — Vaatjie.
-tjie: Meul (mill) — Meultjie.	Paal (pole) — Paaltjie.
Stoel (chair) — Stoeltjie.	Seun (son) — Seuntjie.
Vrou (wife) — Vroutjie.	Tou (string) — Toutjie.
-etjie: Tol (top) — Tolletjie.	Bom (bomb) — Bommetjie.
Kar (cart) — Karretjie.	Kam (comb) — Kammetjie.

(IV). NAAMVAL — CASE.

In Afrikaans we have four cases, viz. Nominatief, Akkusatief, Possessief en Datief.

Nominatief (or 1ste Naamval) is the subject in a sentence and the **Akkusatief** (or 4de Naamval) is the direct object. **Possessief** (or 2de Naamval) — also **Genitive** — usually denotes the Possessor or owner, which in Afrikaans is expressed by *se*. **Datief** (or 3de Naamval) is the indirect object.

Example:

Nominative (eerste Naamval):	Die man slaan die kat.
Pos. or Gen. (tweede „):	Dit is die man se kat.
Dative (derde „):	Die manges (vir) my 'n kat.
Accusative (vierde „):	Die man slaan die kat.

1. Change the Feminine into the Masculine, and the Masculine into the Feminine:

(1) Die boer is 'n goeie bakker. (2) Die vrou het haar¹⁾ man by die stasie ontmoet. (3) Die koning

¹⁾ For table of Pronouns see pag. 24.

het vir die prins 'n present gegee. (4) Die vrou is 'n goeie werkster. (5) My vriend se koei is dood. (6) Die wolvin het die berin doodgemaak. (7) Die onderwyseres het die seun gestraf. (8) Die sekretaris het sy ma lief. (9) Die vrou het twee wyfie-eende. (10) Die inspekteur bestraf die leerling. (11) Die suster van my moeder is my tante. (12) Die dogter van my tante is my niggie. (13) Die tesourier van ons dorp is ook sekretaris. (14) My baas is baie siek.

2. Change the Plural Nouns into the Singular, and the Singular Nouns into the Plural:

(1) My kar en perd staan voor die huis van my oom. (2) My oom het my vandag 'n brief geskryf. (3) Die bomme van die vyande het die bome voor die huis van my swaer plat geskiet. (4) Die olifant het 'n skaap doodgemaak. (5) Die kassier het die wissels gedeponeer. (6) Skape is altyd baie versigtig as hulle wolwe of jakkalse sien. (7) Die wolf soek sy prooi gewoonlik in die nag. (8) Die pad na my oom se plaas is baie sleg.

3. Change the nouns into the Diminutive:

(1) Die seun lees 'n interessante boek. (2) Die kaffer woon in 'n hut. (3) Die hond blaf vir die kat in die boom. (4) Die boer ry met sy kar en perd na die land. (5) Die kat het 'n muis gevang en die kind was so bang daarvoor, dat sy bo-op die tafel van haar ma in die kombuis gespring het. (6) Die duif sit op die tak bo in die boom se top. (7) Die slang vang 'n padda. (8) In die pad staan die wa van die timmerman. (9) Die haan staan bo-op die ashoop. (10) Die hen kekkel, die kat miaau, die hond blaf, die perd runnik, en die koei bulk.

4. Translate:

(1) This is father's dog. (2) Martin's horse is in the stable. (3) The cock stands on an ant-hill. (4) Please give me the child's hat. (5) My uncle gave me an apple. (6) My wife's servant was very late last Monday morning. (7) My dog's name is Ginger. (8) This is my mother's book. (9) This is the house of my father. (10) The baker's boy brought the bread very late this morning. (11) The farmer's hay-stack was burnt down. (12) This is my chair and not yours.

WOORDELYS.

Stable	—	stal.
cock	—	meid.
ant-hill	—	miershoop.
servant	—	meid.
hay-stack	—	hooimied.

CHAPTER 4.

VOORNAAMWOORDE – PRONOUNS.

(I). Persoonlike Voornaamwoorde (Personal Pronouns).

In order to master the use of these pronouns the following table should be committed to memory:

Enkelvoud (Singular).			Meervoud (Plural).		
Nom.	Poss.	Obj.	Nom.	Poss.	Obj.
1. Ek (I)	My (my)	My (me)	Ons (we)	Ons (our)	Ons (us)
2. Jy } u } you	Jou } u } your	Jou } u } you	Julle } u } you	Julle } u } your	Julle } u } you
3. Hy (he) Sy (she) Dit (it)	Sy (his) Haar (her)	Hom (him) Haar (her)	Hulle(they)	Hulle (their)	Hulle(them)

Note: Mine – Myne. Ours – Ons s'n.
 Yours – Joune (joue). Yours – Julle s'n.
 His – Syne. Theirs – Hulle s'n.

Just as in English "This is the hat of John" may be written "This is John's hat", so the Afrikaans "Dit is die hoed van Jan", may be written, "Dit is *Jan se* hoed", i.e. *se* is equivalent to the English ('s). The essential difference is, that where we use one word, (John's) in English we have two words in Afrikaans.

Where "IT" is preceded by a preposition, it is changed into "Daar" and the preposition follows, the word being written as one; e.g. "I am sitting on it" would be "Ek sit daarop"; "He looks at it"; "Hy kyk daarna", etc.

(II). Betreklieke Voornaamwoorde (Relative Pronouns).

WAT is the Relative Pronoun most frequently used in Afrikaans, and it is used where any of the Relative Pronouns (Who, which or that) is used in English, e.g. "The man, who stands there, is my uncle" — "Die man, wat daar staan, is my oom". "The horse, which he bought, is black" — "Die perd, wat hy gekoop het, is swart". "The book, that lies on the table, is mine" — "Die boek, wat op die tafel lê, is myne".

Where, however, **WHICH** is preceded by a preposition, it should be changed to "**Waar**" with the preposition following, e.g. "The chair on which he is sitting, belongs to me" — "Die stoel waarop hy sit, behoort aan my".

Where **WHO** is preceded by a preposition, the order remains the same as in English, e.g. "The man, to whom I gave the book, is my friend" — "Die man, aan wie ek die boek gegee het, is my vriend". In other words, when **WHO** is in the Objective case, this rule applies.

(III). Vraende Voornaamwoorde (Interrogative Pronouns).

WIE? (who), **WAT?** (what), **WIE S'N?** (whose), are used substantively, **WATTER?** (which — used for both persons and things), **WAT VIR 'N?** (what sort of), **WIE SE?** (whose) are used adjectively, e.g. "**WIE** is hy?" — "Who is he?"; "**WAT** sê jy?" — "What do you say?"; **WIE S'N** is dit?" — "Whose is this?"; **WAT VIR 'N** plan is dit?" —

“What sort of plan is this?”; “**WIE SE** boeke dra jy?” —
 “Whose books are you carrying?”

(IV). **Aanwysende Voornaamwoorde (Demonstrative Pronouns).**

HIERDIE en **DAARDIE** are the Demonstrative Pronouns most frequently used, and are translated as **this** and **that** respectively (sing.), **these** and **those** (plur.).

Pronouns also used, are **SO'N** (such—sing.), **SULKE** (such—plur.), **DIESELFDE** (the same), and **DERGELIKE** (such like).

(V). **Onbepaalde Voornaamwoorde (Indefinite Pronouns).**

'N MENS (one) is used very extensively throughout the Afrikaans language; other pronouns frequently used, are, **IEMAND** (somebody); **NIEMAND** (nobody); **ENIGEEN** (anybody); **IEDEREEN** (everyone); **ELKEEN** (everybody); **PARTY** (some); **ALMAL** (all); **IETS** (something); **NIKS** (nothing).

(a) Rewrite the following sentences and fill in the appropriate pronouns:

1. Jan waar is — hoed? Ek weet nie waar — hoed is nie.
2. Is dit — boek Piet? Nee dit is nie — nie.
3. Meneer gaan — na die konsert toe? — weet waarlik nie.
4. Jan — moet die kalwers gaan haal.
5. Hy sê — ma is siek.
6. Lenie, waar is — stoel? Annie sit —
7. Is hierdie lekkers —? Nee, dit is Piet —.
8. Ons sal julle vertel waar — moet gaan.

9. Hulle is bly dat — vakansie kry.
10. Sy het — hoed vergeet, daarom het — dit gaan haal.
11. Is die boek wat hy lees —?
12. Hulle het kerse in — huise.

(b) Read aloud and translate the following:

1. Hy het my vertel, dat enigeen daarheen kon gaan.
2. Niemand weet hoe hulle lewe nie.
3. Iemand sal seker die voortou neem.
4. 'n Mens weet nooit wat kan gebeur nie.
5. Hierdie boek is baie interessant.
6. Op watter datum word die konsert gehou?
7. Wat vir 'n brief skryf jy?
8. Wie se kam is dit?
9. Wat maak jy môre-oggend?
10. Die masjien, waarop ek tik, het olie nodig.

(c) Translate:

1. I do not believe such stories.
2. Are those girls very hard-working?
3. John's mother is a very kindhearted lady.
4. Those cows are very young.
5. Everyone knows, that he is clever.
6. Some people say that it is a sin to dance.
7. All the members were present at the meeting.
8. I feel that something will happen.
9. He generally does nothing in class.
10. He presented the cheque for payment.

(d) Translate (a) after the pronouns have been properly inserted.

WOORDELYS.

(b) Het vertel	— told.	(c) Do believe	— glo.
daarheen	— there.	very	— baie.
kon	— could.	hard-working	— hardwerkend.
weet	— know.	kindhearted	— goedhartig.
hoe	— how.	young	— jonk, jong.
lewe (leef)	— live.	clever	— slim.
seker	— surely.	say	— sê.
voortou	— front rope	sin	— sonde.
	(lead).	dance	— dans.
nooit	— never.	members	— lede.
gebeur	— happen.	present	— teenwoordig.
interessant	— interesting.	meeting	— vergadering.
datum	— date.	feel	— voel.
gehou	— held.	generally	— gewoonlik.
môre-oggend	— to-morrow	present (v)	— indien, toon.
	morning.	payment	— betaling.
tik	— type.		
het nodig	— requires.		

CHAPTER 5.

SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION.

There are, strictly speaking, three Tenses which predominate in Afrikaans: **Present, Past and Future.**

In the conjugation of the verb in the various tenses, it undergoes no change, i.e. remains the same in all three persons both **Sing.** and **Plur.** throughout the Present Tense **STAAN**, Past Tense **HET GESTAAN** and Future Tense **SAL STAAN**.

Teenwoordige Tyd: Die dame **sing** 'n sangstuk.
(Present Tense) The lady **sings** a song.

Verlede Tyd: Die dame **het** 'n sangstuk **gesing**.
(Past Tense) The lady **sang** a song.

Toekomende Tyd: Die dame **sal** 'n sangstuk **sing**.
(Future Tense) The lady **will** sing a song.

At this juncture the student must remember, that the construction always remains the same throughout the Past Tense. The following **diagram** will illustrate the correct use of the verb in the **Past Tense**.

1	2	3	4	5
Subj.	(aux.) HET	Obj. (if any)	Ext. (if any)	GE + verb.

Following the order illustrated above, the student should remember that the Auxiliary verb **HET** need not necessarily follow the subject of the sentence. Thus:

Present Tense: Daar loop 'n vrou; **Past Tense:** Daar **het** 'n vrou geloop. It will be seen that the **HET** follows the first word in the sentence and **NOT** the subject. It often occurs that the auxiliary follows the first two words in the sentence, **but the sense is usually self-evident**, as the **first word** in a case of this nature generally is an article, which may be followed by an adjective.

The remaining portion of the construction, as illustrated in the diagram, remains unaltered, i.e. the object and extension, if any, **follow the AUXILIARY**, and **last of all**, is placed the Past Participle, which is **always GE plus the verb**, except where verbs begin with any of the prefixes:

BE e.g. Beken (confess)	GE Gesels (converse)	ONT Ontken (deny)
ER Erken (acknowledge)	HER Herken (recognise)	VER Verken (spy, reconnoitre)

Thus we write, "Ek erken die ontvangs van u brief" — "I acknowledge the receipt of your letter", but in the Past Tense, "Ek **het** die ontvangs van u brief **erken**" and **NOT** ge "plus erken"; i.e. we use as Past Participles the words as **they stand**, when such verbs begin with any one of the prefixes mentioned.

In short, when changing any sentence from the Present to the Past Tense, the student should endeavour to adhere to the following points:

- (I) Delete the verb in the sentence and substitute **het** (Aux.).
- (II) Place the verb deleted at the **end** of the sentence with **ge** as prefix, e.g. "Hy lees 'n boek" — "He reads a book".

(I) Hy **het** 'n boek.

(II) Hy **het** 'n boek **ge** + **lees**. (Hy **het** 'n boek **gelees**).

It must be borne in mind, however, that where a sentence ends in an infinitive phrase (usually denoted by **om te**) the construction, in as far as the Past Participle is concerned, is not affected, that is, the infinitive phrase will invariably remain at the end of the sentence, in the Past as well as in the Present Tense. E.g. Present "Hy lees 'n boek **om kennis op te doen**", Past "Hy **het** 'n boek **gelees om kennis op te doen**".

When, however, a simple sentence begins with an Adverb, a Phrase, or a Subordinate Clause, **HET** or the verb as the case may be, follows the Adverb, Phrase or Clause, and the remaining construction holds. Thus:

(I) **Eindelik** **het** die man gekom (finally the man came).

(II) **In die aand** **is** dit koud (in the evening it is cold).

It will be observed that in Example (II) the Auxiliary **HET** is not used, as the example given is that of a sentence in the Present Tense, (the verb changing to **was** in the Past Tense) but when this is the case as the following sentence will illustrate, it follows the phrase as mentioned above. E.g. "In die aand **het** dit skielik koud **geword**" — "In the evening it suddenly became cold".

- (III) "Toe hy tuis gekom het, ¹⁾ het ek hom die storie vertel" — "When he arrived at home, I told him the story".

Toekomende Tyd (Future Tense).

- (I) "Hy sal seker op die vergadering teenwoordig wees" — "He will certainly be present at the meeting".
- (II) "Hulle sal hulle ouers gaan besoek" — "They will visit their parents".

In connection with the Future Tense, the same rules apply as stipulated for the Past Tense with regard to the construction: that is, the Auxiliary, which in the Future Tense always is **sal** (Singular and Plural), **always follows the Adverb, Phrase or Clause**, should the sentence begin with any of these.

It must here be remembered that just as in English "He cannot pay the sum" is changed into the Past by merely changing the Aux. **can** to **could**, so in Afrikaans the **Auxiliary only** is changed. E.g. Present: "Hy kan nie die geld betaal nie", Past: "Hy kon nie die geld betaal nie".

The student will at this juncture fail to see why two negative words should be used in this sentence, that is **nie...nie** — a construction which according to English, must of necessity make an affirmative.

In this type of construction there is incorporated what is known in Afrikaans as

DIE DUBBELE ONTKENNING (THE DOUBLE NEGATIVE).

Unlike a similar construction in English, the incorporation of two negative words in a sentence does not necessa-

¹⁾ See pag. 37.

rily result in an affirmative. On the contrary, the second word used expressing negation, (which invariably is **NIE**) is used more to emphasise the negative idea.

The student will therefore observe that all sentences, in which negative words are embodied, will contain the word **NIE** at the end of such sentence.

Some of the words expressing negation most frequently used are **NOOIT**, **NIMMER** (never), **NIKS** (nothing); **NĒRENS** (nowhere); **NIEMAND** (nobody); **GEEN** (no) and **NIE** (not). Any sentence containing any one of these words should therefore contain the word **NIE** at the end of the sentence, unless – and this is the only exception – the word **NIE** already appears at the end, in which case it is evident that the second **NIE** is not required: e.g. “I do not know him” – “Ek ken hom **NIE**”.

(a) Translate the following:

1. This man is the husband of my sister.
2. She cooks a good meal everyday.
3. The child is reading a very interesting book.
4. There is a cold wind blowing to-day.
5. There is a football match at Newlands to-day.
6. He is making out the receipt for the cheque.
7. Draw up that Bill at once.
8. I am sending the goods carriage paid.
9. He has an overdraft at the bank.
10. This firm sends goods Free on rail (F. o. r.).
11. To-day the cheque must be cashed.
12. While there is yet time, I advise you to settle your overdue account (A/c).

(b) Change your translation of (a) into the Past Tense.

(c) Change your translation of (a) into the Future Tense.

(d) Re-write your Afrikaans sentences expressing in each a negative idea.

WOORDELYS.

Husband	— eggenoot, man.
cook	— kook.
meal	— maal.
is blowing	— waai.
match	— wedstryd.
receipt	— kwitansie.
draw up	— trek op, maak uit.
carriage	— vrag.
overdraft	— oortrokke bankrekening.
firm	— firma.
in anticipation	— by voorbaat.
cash a cheque	— 'n tjek te betaal.
advise	— aanraai.
to settle an account	— 'n rekening te vereffen (betaal).

CHAPTER 6.

SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION (Continued).

(a) Samegestelde Sinne (Complex and Compound Sentences).

As Subordinate Noun, Adjectival or Adverbial Clauses (or all) are usually contained in Complex and Compound Sentences, the construction is somewhat different from that dealt with in the Simple Sentence.

The most important point to remember in connection with these sentences, is that, in all Subordinate Clauses, whether Noun, Adj., or Adv., the auxiliary does **not** follow the first word or two in the sentence, but the Past Participle in the Subordinate Clause.

This rule applies **only** to Subordinate Clauses in the Past Tense, as obviously, the Auxiliary **HET** is only used in the Past Tense, unless it appears in a sentence as a **Finite Verb**.

The following examples will illustrate what is meant:

Simple	}	(I) Present. "Die man is my oom".
		(II) Past. "Die man was my oom".
		(III) Future. "Die man sal my oom wees".
(b) Compound or Complex	}	(IV) Present. "Die man, wat daar staan, is my oom".
		(V) Past. "Die man, wat daar gestaan het, is my oom".
		(VI) Future. "Die man, wat daar sal staan, is my oom".

It will be observed that in sentence (IV), no auxiliary is used. It therefore, follows, that in sentences of this nature, the verb invariably goes at the end of the Subordinate Clause, e. g.:

- (c) Complex
Containing
Adj. Clause. } (I) "Die papier, waarop hy skryf, behoort aan Jan" – "The paper, on which he writes belongs to John".
(II) "Die boek, wat hy lees, is moeilik" – "The book, that he is reading, is difficult". etc.

As the examples given in (b) and (c) are Complex sentences containing Adjectival Clauses, those illustrated below will further explain the construction with regard to Noun and Adverbial Clauses.

- (d) Complex
Containing
Noun Clauses. } (I) "Dat hy die misdaad gepleeg het, is seker" – "That he committed the crime, is certain".
(II) "Hy het my vertel, dat hy die goedere kontant op aflewering (K.O.A.) aangestuur het" – "He told me, that he dispatched the goods (C.O.D.)".

- (e) Complex
Containing
Adv. Clause. } (I) "Toe hy die geld gebank het (gedeponeer), het die dief hom aangeval" – "When he deposited the money, the thief attacked him".
(II) "Die dief was gearresteer (gevang), waar hy die klerk aangeval het" – "The thief was arrested, where he attacked the clerk".

As the correct construction of sentences, is the most important feature in the study of a language, and in order

to avoid any misapprehension in this respect, the student is advised to study it very carefully.

It will be observed, that if the Subordinate Clauses are extracted from the various examples given in (b), (c), (d) and (e), all that remains is a series of Principal Clauses. It follows, therefore, that the Subordinate Clauses so extracted, are constructed according to the rules laid down in (a).

If we take, for example, the Subordinate Clause in (e) (II), "waar hy die klerk aangeval het", it will be seen that, constructed accordingly to the rule, the auxiliary **HET** follows the Past Participle (aangeval), which always is the case in Sub. Clauses. Again, in the remaining portion of the sentence (Princ. Clause), "Die dief was gearresteer", the auxiliary, which in this case, is **WAS**, follows the subject of the sentence, and the Past Part. goes at the end of the sentence (Princ. Clause).

Similarly, in (e) (I) the Sub. Clause reads, "Toe hy die geld gebank het", and the remainder, which is the Principal Clause, **begins** with the auxiliary **HET**, as obviously, the **whole sentence** (complex) begins with the Adverbial Clause (vide page 32).

NOTE: Where the auxiliary "**HET**" is used in the Subordinate Clause, as well as in the Principal Clause of a Complex or Compound sentence in the Past Tense, these two auxiliaries appear together in the correctly constructed sentences. Further examples are here given:

- (I) "Die dame, wat gesing **het, het** ek gehoor". — "I heard the lady, who sang", **OR** "Ek het die dame, wat gesing het, gehoor".

Obviously the Adjectival Clause **Wat gesing het** qualifies the word **dame** and should therefore, be as near to it as possible. Hence the reason why the Adj. Clause in the

second instance given above, was not placed after **gehoor**, as firstly, it would then, strictly speaking, have qualified **gehoor** and not **dame**, and secondly, this would have been contrary to the rule laid down in the diagram in Chapter four.

- (II) “Die beskuldigde, wat hulle tot die dood veroordeel **het, het** alles beken” — “The accused, whom they sentenced to death, confessed everything”.

In this sentence the student will observe, that in neither the Principal nor the Subordinate Clause, the Past Participle is written with the prefix **GE** — common to all Past Participles — as obviously the verbs used already begin with one of the prefixes mentioned in chapter five.

1. Write the following sentences in the Negative:

1. Jan kan die som maak.
2. Sy suster sit stil in die skool.
3. My oom kom môre huis-toe.
4. Die jagter het die haas deur die been geskiet.
5. My vrou hou baie van grondboontjies.
6. Die boer ploeg op die land.
7. Die tuinier spit.
8. Ek sal jou help.
9. Ek doen elke aend my huiswerk.
10. Ek sal slae kry as ek my huiswerk doen.

2. Translate:

1. We have received your application for the vacant post.
2. The manager told the bookkeeper, that he received the money.
3. The paper, on which he wrote, was very small.
4. The cheque, which he presented for payment, was marked i. f. (insufficient funds).

5. Do not open the door, until the train stops.
6. If I do not go to-day, I shall go early to-morrow.
7. The commercial course, which he took, was of great value to him.
8. Your letter of the 30th ultimo, was not quite clear.
9. In reply to your favour of the 10th instant, I am forwarding cheque for £ 88.10.0 in settlement of my account.
10. I much appreciate the testimonial I received this morning and have no doubt, that it will be of great value in the future.
11. He failed in bookkeeping and business methods, but passed in all the other subjects.
12. His aim is to become an accountant.

WOORDELYS.

<p>Application — aplikasie. vacant post — vakante pos. vacancy — vakature. manager — bestuurder. bookkeeper — boekhouer. cheque — tjek. marked — gemerk. insufficient } (onvoldoende funds } (fonds (o/f.) stops — stilstaan, stilhou. early — vroeg. commercial } — handelskursus. course } value — waarde. ultimo — laastemaand (l.l.) favour — brief.</p>	<p>Instant — deser. forward — aanstuur. account — rekening. appreciate — waardeer. testimonial — getuigskrif. doubt — twyfel. future — toekoms. fail — druij. bookkeeping — boekhou. business } — (besigheids- methods } (metodes. subjects — onderwerpe. aim — doel. become — word. accountant — rekenmeester.</p>
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