

# Xhosa

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# 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 <i>b'</i>, <i>ch'</i>, <i>k'</i>, <i>p'</i>, <i>t'</i> and <i>ts'</i> 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 <i>b'</i> 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 <i>dl</i> 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		