

# Zulu

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# pronunciation

Vowels		Consonants	
Symbol	English sound	Symbol	English sound
aa	father	b	rib-punch
aw	law	b'	strong <b>b</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 <b>hl</b>
<p>In this chapter, the Zulu pronunciation is given in <b>pink</b> 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>Uxolo.</i>                      <b>u-k{aw-law}</b></p> <p>Note also that Zulu has no word stress in questions.</p> <p>The term 'voiced' applied to consonant and clicks in this chapter means 'said with the vocal cords vibrating'.</p> <p>Zulu's glottalised consonants, simplified as <b>b'</b>, <b>ch'</b>, <b>k'</b>, <b>p'</b>, <b>t'</b> and <b>ts'</b> 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>b'</b> has an extra twist – instead of breathing out to make the sound, you breathe in.</p> <p>For information on Zulu's distinctive click sounds, see the box on page 220.</p>		f	fun
		g	as in 'big-kick'
		h	hat
		hl	as in the Welsh 'llewellyn'
		j	jar
		k	kit
		k'	<b>k</b> , but spat out
		l	lot
		m	man
		n	not
		ng	finger
		ny	canyon
		p	pet
		p'	popping <b>p</b>
		r	run (rolled)
		s	sun
		sh	shot
		t	top
		t'	spitting <b>t</b>
		ts'	as in 'lets', but spat out
		v	very
		w	win
		y	yes
		z	zero