

**Leer jouself Nama  
Teach yourself Nama  
Aitsama Namagowaba || khā || khāsen**



**Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport  
Departement van Kultuursake en Sport  
Isebe lezeMicimbi yeNkcubeko neMidlalo**

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Teach yourself Nama  
Aitsama Namagowaba || khā || khāsen

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## **Voorwoord**

Hierdie boekie is ontwerp en saamgestel as deel van die Departement Kultuursake en Sport in die Wes-Kaap se Nama Bewustheidsveldtog.

Die boekie en sy gepaardgaande CD is daarop gemik om die leser in staat te stel om self die Nama taal aan te leer. Dit moet egter ingedagte gehou word dat die beste manier om 'n taal aan te leer, is om met moedertaalsprekers van die taal te praat.

Die inhoud en struktuur van die boekie is saamgestel en gekonseptualiseer deur mnr Pedro Dausab.

Die Departement hoop dat hierdie boekie die leser sal help om 'n kennis en waardering van 'n kosbare taalerfenis van Suid-Afrika aan te kweek.

## **Foreword**

This booklet was designed and compiled as part of the Nama Awareness Campaign of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport in the Western Cape.

The booklet and its accompanying CD are aimed at making it possible for the reader to learn the language through self tuition. It should however be remembered that the best way of learning a language is to speak to mother-tongue speakers of the language.

The contents and structure of the booklet were compiled and conceptualized by Mr Pedro Dausab.

The Department hopes that this booklet will assist the reader in developing a knowledge and appreciation of a valuable linguistic heritage of South Africa.

## **1. Die Klapklanke/Clicks**

Daar is vier kenmerkende klapklanke in die taal en hulle word verteenwoordig deur die letters: "ǀ" "ǁ" "ǃ" "ǂ".

There are four characteristic clicks in the language, and they are represented by the letters: "ǀ" "ǁ" "ǃ" "ǂ".

### 1.1 Die Tandletter/Dentale klapklank "ǀ"

The Dental click "ǀ"

Die "ǀ" klapklank word gemaak deur die breek van 'n geringe suiging wat veroorsaak word deur die voorpunt van die tong net agter die boonste voortande waar hulle die tandvleis raak, te plaas; neem (met albei lippe effens apart) dan die voorpunt van die tong weg van die tande af.

The "ǀ" click sound is made by breaking a slight suction that is created by just placing the very tip of the tongue behind the upper front teeth; where they meet the gums; then (keeping both lips slightly apart) draw the tip of the tongue away from the teeth.

### 1.2 Die Palatale klapklank "ǃ"

The Palatal click "ǃ"

Die "ǃ" klapklank word gemaak deur die breek van 'n geringe suiging, veroorsaak met die voorkant van die tong teen die verhemelte, waar dit afdraai na die boonste voortande. In die breek van hierdie suiging word 'n skerp ondertoebeweging van die tong gemaak, terwyl die lippe effens van mekaar gehou word. In die voortbring van hierdie klank is daar ook 'n skerp ondertoebeweging van die onderkakebeen te bespeur.

The "ǃ" click sound is made by breaking a slight suction, made with the forward portion of the tongue against the roof of the mouth (palate), where it curves downwards towards the upper front teeth. In breaking this suction, a sharp downward movement of the tongue is made, whilst the lips are slightly apart. In producing this sound a sharp downward movement of the lower jaw is also noticeable.

### 1.3 Die Sydelingse/Laterale klapklank "ǁ"

The Lateral click "ǁ"

Die "ǁ" klapklank word gemaak deur die breek van 'n suiging veroorsaak tussen een van die twee kante van die tong en die betrokke wang. Die lippe en tande word effens apart gehou wanneer hierdie klapklank gemaak word en die onderstekakebeen word nie op of af beweeg nie.

The "ǁ" click sound is made by breaking a suction created between either side of the tongue and relative cheek. In making this sound, the lips and teeth are kept slightly apart and the lower jaw is not moved upwards or downwards.

### 1.4 Die Alveolêre klapklank "ǀ"

The Alveolar click "ǀ"

Die "ǀ" klapklank word gemaak deur die breek van 'n suiging wat veroorsaak word deur die voerpunt van die tong tussen die voortande te sit en vinnig terug te trek; met albei lippe effens apart.

The "ǀ" click sound is made by breaking a suction, that is created by placing the tip of the tongue between the front teeth and pulling back the tongue with both lips slightly apart.

Die klapklanke mag deur die volgende gevolg word:

The clicks may be followed by:

'n Klinker / A Vowel

Deur g / By g

Deur h / By h

Deur n / By n

Deur kh / By kh

## **2. Klinkers/Vowels**

Daar is vir alle praktiese doeleindes vier soorte klinkers in Nama.

For practical purposes four kinds of vowels are distinguished in Nama.

### Kort klinkers /Short vowels

Seun	Son	Axab
Wanneer	When	Hamo
Gister	Yesterday	ari
Môre	Tomorrow	ari
Later	Later	Ega
Groet	Greet	Tawete

### Lang klinkers/Long vowels

Kom	Come	Hā
Gee	Give	Mā
Gaan weg	Go away	Bē
Daad	Deed	Dīb
Kry	Get	Hō
Vat	Take	Ū

### Genasaleerde klinkers/Nasalised vowels

Staan	Stand	Mâ
Vra	Question	Dî
Stuur	Send	Sî
Gaan	Go	!Gû

### Diftonge/Diphthongs.

In Nama behou elke letter sy eie klank; byvoorbeeld in **Khoeb** word die **o** apart gehoor en die **e** ook - nie soos in Afrikaans waar die **oe** as **u** uitgespreek word nie.

In Nama each letter keeps its own sound; for instance in **Khoeb** the **o** must be heard separately likewise the **e**. not as in English where **au** is pronounced as **aa** like in laugh.

Vasmaak	Fasten	!Gae
Siek	Sick	aesen
Sing	Sing	nae
Terug/gaan terug	Go back	Oa
Man	Man	Khoeb

### 3. Alfabet/Alphabet

Die Nama alfabet bestaan uit 20 letters. (Die letters wat ontbreek, word glad nie in egte Nama woorde gebruik nie, maar slegs in leenwoorde of name):

The Nama alphabet consists of 20 letters. (The omitted letters are not used in authentic Nama words at all, but only in borrowed names):

a	B(be)	Ts(tse)	d(de)	e	x(ge)	h	I	g(ke)	k(kha)
k (khi)	h m(em)	n(en)	o	p	r(er)	s(es)	t(te)	u(oe)	w(we)

|            !            ||            ≠

Let op die uitspraak van die volgende letters in Nama:  
Note the pronunciation of the following letters in Nama:

C - word uitgespreek as – ts	C – is pronounced as - ts
X - word uitgespreek as – g	X – is pronounced as - g
G - word uitgespreek as – ke	G – is pronounced as - ke
I - word uitgespreek as – ie	I - is pronounced as - ie
U - word uitgespreek as - oe	U- is pronounced as - oe



#### **4. Selfstandige Naamwoorde/Nouns**

Selfstandige naamwoorde kom voor in enkelvoud, tweevoud en meervoud.  
Nouns occur in singular, dual and plural form.

- Let wel!
- s dui die vroulike geslag enkelvoud aan, tweevoud eindig met –ra, en meer met –di.
  - b dui die manlike geslag enkelvoud aan, tweevoud eindig met –kha en meervoude met –gu.
  - I dui geen geslag aan nie, meervoude eindig dan met –n.
- Please note!
- s indicates the feminine singular, twofold ends with –ra, and more with –di.
  - b indicates the masculine singular, twofold ends with –kha, and more with –gu.
  - I indicate no gender, plural ends with n.

Piris	Pirira	Piridi	Bok(ooi)/Goat
Gomas	Gomara	Gomadi	Koei/Cow
Arib	Arikha	Arigu	Hond/Dog
Khoe-I	Khoen	Khoen	Mense/People

#### **5. Woordelys/Glossary**

Meneer	Mister/Sir	!Gôasab
Mevrou/Juffrou	Madam/Lady	!Gôasas
Jy	You	Sats (male)
Jy	You	Sas (female)
Ek	I	Tita
Bed	Bed	Khaorob
Slaap	Sleep	ōm
Word wakker	Wake up	≠Khai
Siek	Ill	aesen
Medisyne	Medicine	So   ôan
Pille	Pills	Pels
Gesond	Healthy	≠Gau/≠uru
God	God	Elob
Skool	School	Skoli

Tabak	Tobacco	Tapaga-i
Verbaas	Surprised	Buru
Oorlog	War	Torob

## **6. Vreemde Woorde/Foreign words**

Motor	Car	Audos
Bioskoop	Bioscope	Bioskop/baeskop
Flits	Torch	Flēts/tōts
Voorskoot	Apron	Forkhōs
Knoop	Button	Kunubes
Masjien	Engine	Masins
Tante	Aunt	Mikis
Poskantoor	Post Office	Poskantors
Stasie	Station	Stasis
Trein	Train	Trens
Geleentheid	Lift	Xale-i
Koffie	Coffee	Kofi-i
Tee	Tea	Tē-ī
Posseël	Postage stamp	Stems

## **7. Groet en gasvryheid/Greetings and hospitality**

Groet en gasvryheid	Greetings and hospitality	!Gûkhoisâu Inamxasib
Goeiemôre	Good morning	!Gâi   goas
Goeiedag	Good day	!Gâi tsēs
Goeienaand	Good night	!Gâi !oes
Hallo	Hello	!Gâi tsēs
Hoe gaan dit?	How are you?	Mî re?
Hoe gaan dit?	Are you well?	≠Khai(t)s go?
Baie goed, dankie	Very well, thank you	≠Hanu a, gangan
Totsiens	Good bye	!Gâise !gû re
Sien jou spoedig	See you soon	!Haese mûgus /    Khawa mûgus

Bly om jou te ken	Pleased to know you	!Gâi a Ꞥan (t)si sa
Wat is jou naam?	What is your name?	Mati(t)s  on hâ?
Van waar is jy?	Where are you from?	Mapa xu(t)s ta hâ?
Waar woon jy?	Where do you live?	Mapa(t)s ta hâ?
Woon jy in hierdie dorp?	Do you live in this town?	Nē !ās ai(t)s ta hâ?
Kom binne	Come in	ꞤGâxa re
Mag ek help?	May I help?	Hui   Khā ta a?
Wil jy iets hê om te drink?	Would you like a drink?	Axū-e Ꞥhâba(t)s hâ?
Help jouself	Help yourself	Huisen
Dankie vir 'n aangename tyd	Thanks for a pleasant time	!Gai hâ    aeb !aroma gangans
Kan ek vir jou enigiets aanbied?	Can I offer you anything?	Xū-he mā(t)si   khā ta a?

## **8. Die weer/The weather**

Die weer	The weather	ꞤOab tsî   nanub
Dis 'n mooi dag, is dit nie?	Fine day today, isn't it?	Îsa tsēs ge ama tama-e?
Dis warm	It is hot	Gamsa a
Dis koud	It is cold	!Khai a
Dis winderig	It is windy	ꞤOaxa a
Daar is 'n storm aan die kom	There is a storm brewing	Kai Ꞥoas ge ra khâi
Blits en donderweer	Thunder and lightning	!Gurub tsî nawab
Slegte weer	Bad weather	Gaora Ꞥoab tsî   nanub

## **9. Seisoene/Seasons**

Seisoene	Seasons	Kurikamagu
Somer	Summer	khunab
Herfs	Autumn	Hai !kharib
Winter	Winter	Saob
Lente	Spring	hao    aeb

## **10. Hemelligame/Planets**

Hemelligame	Planets	Hom isigu
Hemel	Heaven	Homi
Uitspansel	Sky	!A <del>f</del> uisab
Son	Sun	Sores
Sterre	Stars	Gamirodi
Wolke	Clouds	nanun/!âon
Maan	Moon	Khâb

## **11. Getalle/Numbers**

Nommers	Numbers	!Gôadi
Een	One	Gui
Twee	Two	Gam
Drie	Three	!Nona
Vier	Four	Haka
Vyf	Five	Koro
Ses	Six	!Nani
Sewe	Seven	Hû
Agt	Eight	Khaisa
Nege	Nine	Khoese
Tien	Ten	Disi

Eleven	Disi  gui  a
Twelve	Disi  gam  a
Twenty	Gamdisi
Twenty two	Gamdisi  gam  a
Thirty	!Nonadisi
Fourty	Hagadisi
Hundred	Kaidisi
Two hundred	Gamkaidisi
Three hundred	!Nonakaidisi
Thousand	Oadisi

## **12. Rangtelwoorde/Ordinals**

Rangtelwoorde	Ordinals	Saogub
Eerste	First	≠Guro
Tweede	Second	Gam   î
Derde	Third	!Nona   î
Vierde	Fourth	Haka   î
Vyfde	Fifth	Koro   î
Sesde	Sixth	!Nani   î
Sewende	Seventh	Hû   î
Agste	Eighth	Khaisa   î
Negende	Ninth	Khoese   î
Tiende	Tenth	Disi   î

## **13. Essensiële/Essentials**

Essensiële	Essentials	≠Hâ≠hâsa
Ja	Yes	î
Nee	No	Hî-î
Asseblief	Please	Toxoba
Dankie	Thank you	Gangans
Verskoon my	Excuse me	Ûba te re

## 14. Klaskamer/Classroom

Klaskamer	Classroom	Khā    khā!nā-omi(s)
Goeiemôre kinders	Good morning, children	!Gâi    goas,  gôan
Sit	Sit down	≠Nû re
Maak julle boeke oop	Open your books	Sadu ≠khanina    khowa-am
Tel julle potlode op	Pick up your pencils	Sadu xoaxuruga ū khâi
Stop!	Stop!	û re
Herhaal/Weer	Repeat/Again	Khawa
Doen soos ek doen	Do as I do	Dī re tita ra dī khemi
Oefen	Practise	Khāpēsen / !âisen
Kyk, sien jy	Look, do you see	Kōre, mû du ra
Wel gedaan	Well done	!Gâise(t)s ge go dī
Jou beurt	Your turn	Sa !nas
Luister	Listen	!Gâ re
Bly stil	Be quiet!	!Nō re
Waar is Willem?	Where is William?	Willema mapa hâ?
Wat soek jy?	What are you looking	Tare-e(t)s ta ôa?
Goed	Good/fine	!Gâi a
Maak gou	Hurry	!Hae re
Sê agter my aan	Repeat after me	Ti khao !gâ mî
Dit was baie lekker	It was very nice	Kaise go !gâi i

## **15. Hoflikheidsfrases/Polite phrases**

Hoflikheidsfrases	Polite phrases	Gauxa ꞆĀibasendi
Verskoon my	Excuse me	Ūba te re /   Gawa   aegu te
Ek is jammer	I'm sorry	hawio kai te re
Weer/herhaal	Pardon	Khawa
Dis reg so	That's all right	ꞆHanu-a
Nie te danke	Don't mention it	Tā mî
Dit maak nie saak nie	It doesn't matter	Xū he hâ tama
Sê weer/ekskuus?	I beg your pardon?	Khawa mî re?
Goed/Dis reg so	Good/ That's fine	!Gâi-a
Moenie bekommerd wees nie	Don't worry	Tā   ae

## **16. Vrae en versoeke/Questions and requests**

Vrae en Versoeke	Questions and re- quests	Dîdi tsî ꞆGandi
Waar?	Where?	Mapa?
Waar is die hotel?	Where is the hotel?	Hotelsa mapa hâ?
Wanneer?	When?	Mâ   ae?
Wanneer sal jy kom?	When will you come?	Mâ   ae(t)s nî  khî?
Hoeveel?	How much?	Matikō?
Hoe ver?	How far?	Matikōse !nū?
Wat is dié?	What is this?	Tare-e nē-e?
Wat is dit?	What is that?	Tare-e   nā-e?
Wat wil jy hê?	What do you want?	Tare-e(t)s ta Ꞇgao?
Wat moet ek doen?	What must I do?	Tare-e ta nî dî?
Het jy?	Have you...?	Ū(t)s hâ...?
Daar?	Is/are there...?	Nāba...?
Het jy gesien?	Have you seen?	Mû(t)s go...?
Gee my asseblief...	Please give me...	Toxoba mā te re...

Ek wil 'n ... hê	I want...	Tita ge ra †gao...
Waarom?	Why?	Tare-i !aroma?
Doen dit!	Do that!	Dī    nā-e!
Moenie dit doen nie!	Don't do that!	Tā    nā-e dī!
Wat het gebeur?	What happened?	Tare-e go ī?

## **17. Taalprobleme/Language problems**

Taalprobleme	Language problems	Gowab !gomsigu
Praat jy Engels?	Do you speak English?	Hurigowaba(t)s ta ! hoa?
Ek praat nie Nama nie	I don't speak Nama	Tita ge Namagowaba !hoa tama hâ
Ek verstaan nie	I don't understand	Nâu !ā tama ta ge hâ
Praat asseblief stadig	Please speak slowly	†Au se toxopa !hoa re

## **18. Tyd en datums/Time and dates**

Tyd en Datums	Time and dates	Aeb tsi dadomdi
Hoe laat is dit?	What time is it?	Matikō    aexa i go?
Dit is een uur	It is one o'clock	Gui-īr go
Dit is middag	It is midday	Tsē !gâ    aeb ge
Dit is middernag	It is midnight	Tsuxub !gâb ge
Dis vroeg	It is early	!Oega i ge a
Dis laat	It is late	!Onkhao i ge a
Hoe laat begin dit?	What time does it start?	Mâ    ae ī ra tsoatsoa?
Hoe laat maak dit klaar?	What time does it end?	Mâ    ae ī ra toa?
Gaan jy lank bly?	Are you staying long?	Gaxuse(t) s ta hâ?
Ek bly vir vier dae	I'm staying for four days	Haga tsēde ta ge ni hâ
Ek is 'n week al hier	I've been here for a week	Wekheba ta ge nēba go hâ i



Ons vertrek 5 Januarie	We're leaving on Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>	Koros Januarib dis aida gera !nari
Wat is die datum?	What's the date?	Matikō ī a nētsē?
Vandag	Today	Nētsē
Gister/Môre	Yesterday/Tomorrow	Ari
Oormôre	Day after Tomorrow	Aetsē
Dag	Day	Tsēs
Vanoggend	This morning	Nē    goaga
In die middag	In the afternoon	Karab ai
Gisteraand	Last night	Arikam !oe
Môreaand	Tomorrow night	Arikam !oe
Die week	This week	Nē wekhe
Verlede maand	Last month	≠Oa go    khâ
Volgende jaar	Next year	!Goaxa kuri

## **19. Bruikbare stellings/Useful statements**

Bruikbare stellings	Useful statements	Sisenūhesa !urigu
Ek hou van dit	I like it	Tura ta ra
Ek hou nie van dit nie...	I don't like it...	Tura tama ta hâ...
Ek is nie seker nie	I'm not sure	Oasase ta ≠an tama hâ
Ek weet nie	I don't know	Ū ta-a
Ek het nie geweet nie	I didn't know	Ū ta go i
Ek dink so	I think so	Ti tara ≠âi
Ek is honger	I am hungry	!Âsa ta a
Ek is dors	I am thirsty	Gâsa ta a
Ek is moeg	I am tired	Tsau sa ta a

Ek is haastig	I am in a hurry	!Noesa ta a
Los my uit	Leave me alone	Nāxū te
Wag 'n bietjie	Just a moment	Aerob  guiba
Op hierdie manier	This way please	Nē  gaub ai toxoba
Sit maar	Take a seat	≠Nû re
Kom binne	Come in	≠Gâxa re
Dis te veel	It's too much	Kaise a !nāsa
Dis al	That is all	Nēn ge hūna
Jy is reg	You are right	≠Hanu(t)s a
Jy is verkeerd	You are wrong	≠Hanu tama(t)s hâ
Ek is reg	I am ready	≠Homisen toa ta hâ

## **20. Liggaamsdele/Body parts**

Hare	Hair	ûn
Kop	Head	Danas
Wenkbroue	Eyebrow	gâugu
Oor	Ear	≠ gaes
Oog	Eye	mûs
Mond	Mouth	ams
Neus	Nose	≠ guis
Nek	Neck	!aos
Skouer	Shoulder	!hôs
Elmboog	Elbow	!unib
Hand	Hand	!om mi
Vinger	Finger	khunub
Knie	Knee	goas
Been	Leg	nub
Voet	Foot	≠ ais

## 21. A da !gôa

Gui -   gam ti ta ge,	Een twee dis ek	One two it is me
!nona – haka sats ge.	Drie vier jy is	Three four you are
Koro - !nani, sas ge	Vyf ses jy is	Five six you are
Hû -    khaisa    îb ge	Sewe agt hy is	Seven Eight he is
Khoese – disî    îs ge	Nege tien sy is	Nine ten she is
Disî  gui  a – disî  gam  a sida ge	elf twaalf ons is	Eleven twelve we are
Disî !nona  a – disî haka  a sada ge	Dertien veertien ons is	Thirteen fourteen we are
	Hoa da ra!gôa    khāpesen ...!	

Let wel!                    Sats dui op die manlike vorm enkelvoud  
                                   Sas dui op die vroulike vorm enkelvoud  
                                   Sida is eksklusief m.a.w. dit sluit net 'n sekere  
                                   groep in  
                                   Sada is inklusief en sluit almal in

Please note!                Sats denotes masculine singular  
                                   Sas denotes feminine singular  
                                   Sida is exclusive i.e it only includes a specific  
                                   group  
                                   Sada is inclusive and includes everyone