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ISIZULU – ISINGISI

ENGLISH – ISIZULU

Isichazamazwi Sesikole *School Dictionary*

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Dictionary features

This dictionary has been designed to help you read and write isiZulu better, if you are a learner of isiZulu, or read and write English better, if you are a learner of English.

These pages explain most of the features of this dictionary, which will help you improve your reading and writing.

For isiZulu nouns, both the singular and the plural forms are given, to help users link **noun pairs**. Here is the plural with a reference to the singular form.

An accurate and appropriate **translation** is given for each sense of each headword. Sometimes several translations are needed to translate a single sense; these translations are separated by semi-colons and are not necessarily synonyms.

The dictionary lists words **as they are used**, rather than by the unfamiliar stem (e.g. *-de*), making the dictionary easy and quick to use.

A **part of speech** (or **word class**) is indicated for each headword, building an understanding of grammar. For isiZulu, class membership is also indicated.

Natural **example sentences** or phrases are given for almost every headword, or sense of a headword. These examples show how a word is used in context and give learners a model for their own writing or speaking.

Each **side** of the dictionary is clearly marked on each page for ease of use.

Headwords with the **same spelling** but with a different meaning or origin appear in separate entries. These entries (called **homonyms**) are numbered as you can see in these examples.

Words that are formed from the headword are called **derivations**. These appear at the end of entries, helping learners broaden their vocabulary using word families.

Usage notes guide learners on potential areas of difficulty, helping them avoid common mistakes. Usage notes are also used to give additional information on how and when to use a headword.

[IsiZulu-IsiNgesi] 195

omkhulu → **onakala**

umshado **omhlophe** oJabu noNhanhla ngoMgqibelo. *Jabu and Nhanhla had a white wedding on Saturday.*

omkhulu **cl. 1, cl. 3** ■ big; large; great • Ngithe ngilele ngaphupha ngibona umuntu **omkhulu** evele phakathi kwamafu. *Every time I dream, I saw a large person appearing between the clouds.*

◇ **uthisha omkhulu** ■ principal; headmaster

• UThisha **omkhulu** wafunda eNcwadini eNgcwele. *The principal read from the Holy Book.*

► **imkhulu** ■ master; head (used to address someone respectfully) • Ngiyabonga, **imkhulu**. *Thank you, master.*

► **omkhulukazi** ■ very big; very large; very great; huge • Inkosi yakwaButhelezi ibize khona umhlangano **omkhulukazi**, lapbo wonke umuntu ongumZulu ebelindeleke khona. *The chief of the Buthelesi clan called a great meeting at which every Zulu person was expected.*

omkhulu **pl. noun** /a/2a See sg. **OMKHULU**

omnandi **relative cl. 1, cl. 3** ■ nice; pleasant

• Sikufisela inhlalhi! Ophumelele uyothola ushokholeli **omnandi**! *We wish you well! The one who succeeds will get some nice chocolate.* • Athi esscabanga, ezwe umculo **omnandi**. *White he was still thinking, he heard a pleasant song.*

omncane **cl. 1, cl. 3** ■ small; young; little • Uma unezinyawo ezivuvukele uthele usawoti **omncane** emanzini uma useza. *If you have swollen feet, pour a little salt in the water when you take a bath.* • Indoda yayinomkhaba **omncane**. *The man had a small protruding stomach.*

omningi **adjective cl. 1a, cl. 3** ■ much; a lot of

• Imoto yami idla uphahlili **omningi**. *My car uses a lot of petrol.* • Umoba **omningi** utshalwe izolo. *A lot of sugar cane was planted yesterday.*

► The adjective "omningi" can be used only with non-human nouns.

omnyama **cl. 1, cl. 3** ■ black; dark

• Umhlaba usukulindele manje ukuba no-James Bond **omnyama**. *The world is now waiting to have a black James Bond.*

• Bahudulelwa komunye umgede **omnyama** bhuqe phakathi. *They were dragged towards another cave that was pitch dark inside.*

ompetha **pl. noun** /a/2a See sg. **UMPETHA**

ompofu **relative 1** ■ (cl. 1) [poor] eduze kwalapho ngangikhona kwakomezi umfana **ompofu** oluhlalakasha nje. *Close to the place where I was there lived a poor boy who was very tall.* **2** ■ (cl. 3) [pale brown]; [tawny] • Le nkonyane yayinombala **ompofu**. *This calf had a tawny colour.*

omubi **cl. 1, cl. 3** ■ bad; ugly; evil

• Nguye umuntu **omubi** kubalandeli baleli qembu. *He is the bad person among the followers of this group.* • Uwuthandelani umdlalo **omubi** kangaka? *Why do you like such an ugly game?*

omude **adjective cl. 1, cl. 3** ■ long; tall; high; deep • Ngiyamthanda umfana **omude**. *I like the tall boy.* • Ngibone igundane elinomsila **omude**. *I saw a rat with a long tail.*

omuhle **cl. 1, cl. 3** ■ good; beautiful; nice • Ngitshele konke mama wami **omuhle**. *Tell me everything, my good mother.* • UKhanyi unomzimba **omuhle**. *Khanyi has a beautiful body.*

omunye **cl. 1, cl. 3** ■ another (one) • Kubulawe **omunye** osomatekisi KwaZulu-Natali. *Another taxi man was murdered in KwaZulu-Natal.* • Umehluko **omunye** ukuthi wayengasakulumeli futhi. *Another difference is that she is no longer talkative.*

omusha **cl. 1, cl. 3** ■ new; young

• I-Kaizer Chiefs kuzodingeka ifune umqeqeshi **omusha**. *Kaizer Chiefs will need to find a new coach.* • Ezinye izigaba zomthetho **omusha** zizokusetsheziswa kulabo masipala. *Other sections of the new law will be applied to those municipalities.*

◇ **Unyaka omusha onenjabulo!** ■ Happy New Year!

-ona **verb 1** ■ sin; do wrong • Ngixolele uma ngonile, Nkosazana Moya. *Forgive me if I have done wrong, Miss Moya.* **2** ■ spoil • Angufuni **ukona** into enhle kanje ngamagama ami. *I don't want to spoil, in this way, a nice thing with my words.*

-onakala **verb + neuter C-ONA** **1** ■ go wrong • Wahle wazakwela ukuthi **konakele**. *He simply saw for himself that things are wrong.* **2** ■ become spoiled; go bad • Emafrijini **konakala** ukudla obekuthengwe. *The food that was bought went bad in the fridge.*

For isiZulu verbs, the presence of **verbal extensions** is always indicated, with a cross-reference to the verb root (when that verb root is also in the dictionary). This helps users see the connections between extended verbs and their base forms.

B

bo! Ubulale umuntu yini? *What type of crime have you committed? Speak up! Did you kill the person or not?* ♦ **Hhayi bo!** No, dammit!

bobabili ** inclusive numeral pronoun cl. 2
 ■ both (of them) ♦ Amaphoyisa ababambe **bobabili** beziphuzela utshwala. *The police caught both of them drinking liquor.*

◇ [NEG+] **bobabili** ■ either (of them)

bobathathu inclusive numeral pronoun cl. 2
 ■ all three (of them) ♦ Baphase ngamalengiso **bobathathu**. *All three of them passed with distinction.*

bodwa ** exclusive quantitative pronoun
1 ■ (cl. 2) alone; on their own ♦ Bahamba **bodwa** abafana ukuya ekhempini. *The boys are going camping alone.* ■ only ♦ Bayazi ukuthi yibo **bodwa** abathi ngumdlalo ukuvikisana. *They know it is only they who said it's a game to guard each other.* **2** ■ (cl. 14) alone; on its own ♦ U-Meinhof uthi ubunye abuzimele **bodwa**. *Meinhof says that the singular does not stand on its own.* ■ only ♦ Ngangizungezwe ubuhle **bodwa**. *I was surrounded only by beauty.*

bomvu relative

◇ **-ba/-be bomvu** ■ become/became red
 ♦ Ethuke umlungu abheje abe **bomvu**. *The white man became frightened and got red in the face.*

bona *** absolute pronoun **1** ■ (cl. 2) they (themselves); them (in particular)
 ♦ Abafundi abazifundeli **bona**, bafundela isizwe. *The students are not studying for themselves, they are studying for the nation.* ♦ **Yibo** uqobo abenze lobu bubi eNkosini. *It is really they who did this evil to the king.* **2** ■ (cl. 14) it (in particular)
 ♦ Ngiyabonga ntombi, lokhu kukhomba **bona** ubuqhawe bakho. *Thank you girl, it shows your bravery.* ♦ Leyo-ke yingozi evezwa **yibo** ubunuku balabo bantu. *That then is the danger caused by the slovenliness of those people.*

The meaning of this pronoun is not always directly visible in an English translation. When "**bona**" is preceded by formatives such as "yi-", "si-", "na-" or "ku-", the final emphasizing syllable "-na" is usually deleted. See the second examples at senses 1 and 2.

-bona *** verb **1** ■ see ♦ Ngiyajabula **ukukubona** esikhathini eside sagcinana. *I am so happy to see you after such a long time.* ♦ **Sibabonile** bentshontsha ukudla. *We saw them stealing the food.*

♦ **Ngimbonile** ekhala. *I saw her crying.*
2 ■ understand ♦ **Qha, angiyiboni** le nto oyishoyo. *No, I don't understand this thing you're saying.*

► **sawubona** ■ hello; good day/morning/afternoon/evening

-bonakala *** verb + neuter **C** -BONA
1 ■ appear; seem ♦ **Kubonakala** ukuthi wayebhekise kulabo bantu ababengasamnakile kakhulu. *It seems that he referred to those people who no longer paid much attention to him.* **2** ■ be seen; be visible ♦ Nabo **babonakala** bechiphiza, behluleka ukuzibamba. *They were seen crying, unable to control themselves.*

-bonana * verb + reciprocal **C** -BONA ■ see one another ♦ Okungenani **sesizobonana** uma ephuma esibhedlela. *At least we will see each other when she is discharged from hospital.*

◇ **-bonana na-** ■ consult; see; meet
 ♦ Ngemuva kwemizuzu engama-30 **wabonana** nodokotela. *After thirty minutes she saw a doctor.*

-bonela ** verb + applicative **C** -BONA
 ► **-zibonela** ■ see for oneself ♦ **Uyazibonela** nje ukuthi uDazini akayazi nje yonke le nto amxoxela ngayo. *She sees for herself that Dazini is not taking in everything she is telling him.* ♦ Yisipho sakho esivela kubaba. *Vula uzibonele. It is a gift from father. Open it and see for yourself.*

-bonga *** verb **1** ■ thank ♦ **Ngibonga** kakhulu ngakho konke okushilo. *Thank you very much for everything that you have said.* **2** ■ worship; pray to ♦ Abantu abaningi abahamba isonto abakholelwa emadlozini **babonga** uNkulunkulu. *Many people who go to church do not believe in ancestral spirits; they worship God.* **3** ■ praise ♦ Izimbongi **zibonga** amakhosi. *The praise singers praise kings.*

-bongwa verb + passive **C** -BONGA **1** ■ be thanked ♦ Njalo nje esikhundleni sokuthi **kubongwe** mina **kubongwa** uMnguni. *Always – instead of thanking me, thank Mnguni.* **2** ■ be praised ♦ **Makabongwe** uNkulunkulu. *Praise the Lord. (Literally: Let the Lord be praised.)*

and whisk with an electric mixer until thick and creamy. *Faka ushukela nesikhupha seqanda bese ukuphehla ngesixubi sikagesi kuze kujitye futhi kube sakhilimu.*

- you** *** *pronoun* **1** (*singular*) ■ u-; wa- (SCs)
 ♦ After a while **you** start reading with greater care and **you** realize the author's true meaning. *Emuva kwesikhashana uqala ukufunda ngokucophelela okukhulu bese ubona okuqondwe umbhali.* ■ -ku- (OC)
 ♦ I wish **you** pleasant dreams. *Ngikufisela amnandi amaphupho.* ■ wena; -we (*absolute pronouns*) ♦ **You** are talking like a fool. *Wena ukhulumisa okwesilima.*
2 (*plural*) ■ ni-; na- (SCs) ♦ **You** were still asleep. *Nisalele.* ■ -ni- (OC) ♦ We wish **you** a happy Christmas and a happy New Year. *Siniifisela uKhisimusi omuhle nonyaka omusha omuhle.* ■ nina; -ni (*absolute pronouns*) ♦ **You** children mustn't make so much noise! *Nina zingane ningabangi umsindo ongaka!*
 ♦ **and you; with you; to you; also you; you too; even you** ■ nawe (*singular*) ■ nani (*plural*)

In English, **you** refers to the second person singular as well as the second person plural, and is used as a subject or object pronoun. Translated into isiZulu, either a subject concord (SC) or object concord (OC) is used. Full or shortened absolute pronouns may also be used in isiZulu.

- young** *** *adjective* (*younger, youngest*)
 ■ -sha; -ncane ♦ Because so many adults have passed away, **young** people and even children are forced to head up households. *Ngenxa yokuthi abantu abadala abaningi sebedlule emhlabeni, abantu abasebasha ngisho nezingane imbala baphoqeleka ukuthi baphathe imizi.*
your *** *pronoun* ■ [PC+]kho ♦ Are these **your** children? *Ngabe izingane zakho lezi?*
 ♦ I met **your** husband at the shopping complex. *Ngihlangane nomyeni wakho ezitolo.* ♦ When **your** car suddenly breaks down, **your** first reaction is often to panic. *Uma imoto yakho yephuka ngokushesha, into yokuqala oyenzayo ukungenwa ingebhe.*

yours *pronoun* ■ [relative PC+]kho ♦ These socks are **yours**. *La masokisi awakho.*

For more examples, see the isiZulu to English side of your dictionary at *awakho* (cl. 6), *elakho* (cl. 5), *eyakho* (cl. 4 and 9), *ezakho* (cl. 8 and 10), *okwakho* (cl. 15 and 17), and *owakho* (cl. 1 and 3). These are the frequent forms.

yourself ** *pronoun* **1** ■ -zi- ♦ The knife is sharp – don't cut **yourself**! *Ummese ubukhali – ungazisiki!* **2** ■ wena; uqobo lwakho ♦ Did you make this dish **yourself**? *Ngabe le ndishi uzenzele wena?* **3** ■ -dwa ♦ Do you live by **yourself**? *Ngabe uhlala wedwa?*

♦ **by yourself** ■ ngokwakho

youth *noun* (*no plural*) **1** ■ intsha ♦ The government should pay attention to the needs of the **youth**. *Uhulumeni kufanele abheke izidingo zentsha.* **2** ■ ubusha ♦ He said that in his **youth** youngsters gave up their bus seats for the elderly. *Uthe ebusheni bakhe, abantu abancane babesukumela abantu abadala ebhasini ukuze bahlale.*

zebra *noun* (*pl. zebras*) ■ idube ♦ The herd of **zebras** started fleeing when they saw the lions approaching. *Umhlambi wamadube uqale ukubaleka ngesikhathi ubona kuza amabhubezi.*

zero *noun* (*pl. zeros*) (*Maths*) ■ iqanda; 0
 ⓘ nothing, the number 0 *lutho, inombolo eyi-0*
 ♦ The meter is set at **zero**. *Imitha ibekwe eqandeni.*

zone *noun* (*pl. zones*) ■ indawo ♦ Aeroplanes are not usually allowed to fly through the **zone** above a city centre. *Izindiza azivamile ukuvunyelwa ukundiza endaweni engaphezu kwenkaba yedolobha.*

Zulu *noun* (*pl. Zulus*) ■ umZulu ♦ We believe, as the **Zulus** say, that no elephant ever found its trunk too heavy. *Sikholwa ukuthi, njengoba kusho amaZulu, akukho ndlovu esindwa umboko wayo.*

For the language, see *isiZulu*.

Everyday conversations / Izingoxo zansukuzonke

English	IsiZulu
Meeting people	Ukuhlangana nabantu
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hello (to one person). Hello (to more than one person). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawubona (kumuntu oyedwa). Sanibonani/Sanibona (kubantu ababili nangaphezulu).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hello, brother/bru. Hello, sister/my friend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawubona, mfowethu/mfo. Sawubona, dade.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hello (when greeting a man older than you – old enough to be your father). Hello (when greeting a woman older than you – old enough to be your mother). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawubona Mnumzane/baba (uma ubingelela owesilisa omdala kuwena – ongaba yintanga kayihlo). Sawubona mama (uma ubingelela owesifazane omdala kuwena – ongaba yintanga kamama wakho).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are you? (to one person) How are you? (to more than one person) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unjani/usaphila? (kumuntu oyedwa) Ninjani/nisaphila? (kubantu ababili nangaphezulu)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm fine, thanks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ngikhona/ngiyaphila, ngiyabonga.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ngiyacela.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ngiyabonga.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You're welcome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wamukelekile.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No problem! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ayikho inkinga/akunankinga!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excuse me/sorry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uxolo/ngiyaxolisa.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you help me, please? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ungangisiza, ngiyacela/Ake ungisize.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am Sarah. What is your name? My name is Bongani. This is my friend, Bongawe. I'm pleased to meet you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Igama lami ngu-Sarah/ngingu-Sarah. Ubani igama lakho? Igama lami nginguBongani. Lo umngane wami uBongawe. Ngijabulela ukukwazi/ukuhlangana nawe.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is your surname? It's Shabangu. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ungowakabani isibongo/ubani isibongo sakho? NguShabangu.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where are you from? I'm from KwaZulu-Natal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uvelaphi?/Ungowakuphi?/Udabuka kuphi? Ngidabuka/ngivela KwaZulu-Natali.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where do you live? I live in Ulundi. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uhlalaphi? Ngihlala oLundi.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What's your address? It's 10 Undabankulu Street, Ulundi, KwaZulu-Natal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lithini ikheli lakho? Lithi 10 kuMgwaqo uNdabankulu, oLundi, KwaZulu-Natali.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What's your postal code? It's 3838. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lithini ikhodi leposi lakho? Lithi 3838.