

BeingAfrican, LLC Curriculum – Lesson 8

Objectives

1. To learn and understand the pronunciation of phonetic in Xhosa.
2. Practise sounding out the phonetic sounds using some words.

Xhosa is a phonetic language. It is therefore easy to read or say because it has only 5 vowels. All Xhosa words are derived from the vowel sounds as shown below.

Read it out loud:

A -ah!	E-eh!	I -ih!	O-ooh!	U- uh!
Art	Egg	Ink	Orange	Hook

In every word, each syllable must be said out clearly so that the vowel sound is heard.

Practise the sounds below:

“b”	a soft implosive word as “basa” (basa – make fire)	
bh”	a hard aspired sound-air explodes from your lips as in: “ball” in English.	(ball, bicycle, bus) ibhola, ibhayisekile, ibhasi
“d”	a soft implosive sound.	(mud, duck) Udaka, idada
“dh”	(no words)	
“h”	A hard aspired course sound not found in English – made from the throat	(pig, go, no) lhagu, hamba, hayi

Practice sounds in columns 2 through 6. Master the sounds first, sound it out and then read the words in the associated word column.

1	2	3	4	5	6	Words	Words
Aa	A A-ah!	E E-eh!	I I-ih!	O O-oh!	U U-uh!		
Bb	Ba	Be	Bi	Bo	Bu	Ubisi Milk	Ibunzi forehead
Cc	Ca Cha	Ce Che	Ci Chi	Co Cho	Cu Chu	Icici earring Cheba shave	Cela ask Chaza explain
Dd	Da	De	Di	Do	Du	Dada Swim	Isidudu Porridge
Ndw	Ndwa	Ndwe	Ndwi	Ndwo	ndwu	lindwendwe Visitors	indoda
Ee						Enkosi thank you	Ewe yes
Ff	Fa	Fe	Fi	Fo	Fu	Finca Finish	Faka insert
Gg	Ga	Ge	Gi	Go	Gu	Goba bend	Gibisela throw
Gr	Gra	Gre	Gri	Gro	Gru	Gruzula scratch	Grumba dig deep
Hh	Ha	He	Hi	Ho	Hu	lhobe dove	lhagu pig
Jj	Ja	Je	Ji	Jo	Ju	Jika turn	Jikeleza turnaround
Kk	Ka	Ke	Ki	Ko	Ku	ikati cat	Ikama comb
Ll	La	Le	Li	Lo	Lu	Lala Sleep	Lila cry
Mm	Ma	Me	Mi	Mo	Mu	Umama mother	Imoto car
Nn	Na	Ne	Ni	No	Nu	Inani number	Inaliti needle
Pp	Pa	Pe	Pi	Po	Pu	Unopopi	Impempe

						Doll	a whistle
Qq	Qa	Qe	Qi	Qo	Qu	Qubha Swim	umqolo back
Rr	Ra	Ra	Ri	Ro	Ru	Irabha An eraser	Irula ruler
Rh	Rha	Rhe	Rhi	Rho	Rhu	Rhona snore	Rhabula taste
Ss	Sa	Se	Si	So	Su	Isisu stomach	Sela drink
Tt	Ta	Te	Ti	To	Tu	Tata father	Itafile table
Vv	Va	Ve	Vi	Vo	Vu	Vula Open	Vala close
Ww	Wa	We	Wi	Wo	Wu	Wela Cross	Wina win
Xx	Xa	Xe	Xi	Xo	Xu	Xela report	Xuba mix
Yy	Ya	Ye	Yi	Yo	Yu	Yiza come	Yoba faint
Zz	Za	Ze	Zi	Zo	Zu	Zoba draw	Zola be quite