3.1. The definite article

As grammatical gender has died out in Afrikaans, just as it has in English, the definite article for all nouns is die 'the'. When emphasised it renders 'this/these' and 'that/those' and is written dié (see 5.2).

3.2. The indefinite article

The indefinite article is 'n 'a'. Despite appearances it is pronounced [ə]. The 'n is pronounced in the speech of some people, often but not always depending on the first sound of the following noun (compare English a/an). It is safest to stick to [ə], which is the most wide-spread pronunciation, even if the following word begins with a vowel. If a sentence begins with 'n, the first letter of the noun it accompanies is capitalised, e.g.

(89) 'n Mens moet deesdae versigtig wees.
‘One has to be careful these days.’

4.1. Pluralisation of nouns

Plural formation in Afrikaans is exceedingly complex. Many of the apparent exceptions and idiosyncrasies are the result of historical factors which can only be fully understood in the light of norms applying in Dutch. There are basically two ways of forming the plural of a noun: a) by the addition of s, b) by the addition of e. Which of the two endings is required for a given word and the changes to the root vowel or final consonant of some nouns when e is added, constitute the main problems, but there is also the difficulty of some nouns having more than one plural form, with or without a resulting change in meaning.

4.2. Diminutisation of nouns

The diminutive is extensively used in Afrikaans. It is perhaps somewhat more common in speech than in writing, but is definitely more common in written Afrikaans than in written Dutch, for example. The way Afrikaans speakers use their diminutive ending lends Afrikaans a charm that bears comparison with the way it is used in Yiddish, for example.

All nouns can be diminutised and in a few notable cases some other parts of speech can also take a diminutive ending. The form of the ending is dependent on the phonology of the noun concerned; there are thus difficulties in the formation of the diminutive. In certain cases the root vowel of the noun is diphthongised when the diminutive ending is applied. In addition there are the various semantic connotations that nouns can acquire by being diminutised as the function of the ending is not limited merely to making things small. Many nouns, for example, only occur in a diminutised form or the diminutive produces a different lexeme from the root form.
4.3. Feminising endings

The endings -e, -es, -esse, -in, -ster and -trise can be added to nomina agentis of various derivation to indicate the female of the species. The possibility of distinguishing in this way between the male and the female, something which is not commonly done in English, is generally speaking also less common in Afrikaans than in other European languages, e.g. student/studente ‘student’, onderwyser/onderwyseres ‘teacher’, held/heldin ‘hero/heroine’, skrywer/skryfster ‘author’. (Note that the endings -es and -in are stressed.) There are of course cases where the distinction is always made, prins/prinses ‘prince/princess’ but they do not always correspond with English, e.g. vriend/vriendin ‘friend’. Whether the distinction is made or not has been largely lexicalised.

5. Pronouns

The alternation between emphatic and unemphatic pronouns, which is found in both spoken and written Dutch, is unknown in Afrikaans where only the historically emphatic forms have been preserved (see 5.1.1.2.4 for one notable exception).

5.1. Personal pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>subject</th>
<th>object</th>
<th>possessive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ek</td>
<td>my</td>
<td>‘me’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jy</td>
<td>jou</td>
<td>‘you’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>‘you’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hy</td>
<td>hom</td>
<td>‘him’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sy</td>
<td>haar</td>
<td>‘her’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dit</td>
<td>dit</td>
<td>‘it’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ons</td>
<td>ons</td>
<td>‘us’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>julle</td>
<td>julle</td>
<td>‘you’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hulle</td>
<td>hulle</td>
<td>‘them’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>object</th>
<th>possessive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>my/myne</td>
<td>‘my/mine’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jou/joune</td>
<td>‘your/your’s’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u/u s’n</td>
<td>‘his’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sy/syne</td>
<td>‘her/hers’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sy/syne</td>
<td>‘its’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ons/ons s’n</td>
<td>‘our/ours’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>julle, jul/julle s’n</td>
<td>‘your/your’s’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hulle, hul/hulle s’n</td>
<td>‘their/their’s’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Making a distinction between the subject, object and possessive forms of the plural pronouns (as well as of u) does have an historical validity, and as many readers will already be acquainted with Dutch or German, as well as with English, and will be comparing what they read here with what they know to be the case in other Germanic languages, it seems sensible and useful to preserve the traditional categories even if there is a certain artificiality in doing so.
5.1.1.2. Second person pronouns

5.1.1.2.1. Familiar and polite forms of address

The division in use between jy and u does not correspond with that in other European languages, not even with that in Dutch. U is not common in the speech of many Afrikaans speakers, certainly not outside urban areas. Where most European languages employ the polite form of address (i.e. their equivalent of u) when addressing elders, strangers etc. – although even here no two European languages make exactly the same distinction between the familiar and polite form of address – Afrikaans has traditionally employed a third person form of address, rather than using u. This is still a very common practice but has been replaced to a degree by u, particularly among educated urban speakers of Afrikaans and in the media. In colloquial Afrikaans, if the situation at all permits it, there is a preference for the following forms of address, to name the main possibilities: Pa, Ma, Oupa, Ouma, Oom, Tannie, Meneer, Mevrou, Dokter, Dominee, Professor (see 2.8 on the capitalisation of such words). It is relatively recent to address one’s parents with jy, but many people still do not. If an Afrikaans speaker finds himself in a situation where he feels that one of these third person forms of address is appropriate, he is usually very consistent in his use of that form, using it in lieu of subject, object, possessive and reflexive pronouns, e.g.

5.2. Demonstrative pronouns

5.2.1. ‘This/that, these/those’

The opposition this/that, these/those, which exists in English and in Dutch, is not always as clear-cut in Afrikaans. The word dit, historically meaning ‘this’ but in Afrikaans now primarily meaning ‘it’, is also used as an independent demonstrative pronoun meaning ‘this’ or ‘that’, e.g.

(297)  Ek het dit nog nooit gesien nie.
       ‘I have never seen it/this/that before.’

If it is necessary to emphasise the demonstrative, dit can be replaced by hierdie and daardie. But the primary meaning of hierdie and daardie used independently, i.e. not before a noun as emphatic demonstrative adjectives, is ‘this one’ and ‘that one’, e.g.

(298)  Hierdie/daardie is baie mooi.
       ‘This/that (one) is very pretty.’

(299)  Het jy hierdie/daardie gesien?
       ‘Have you seen this/that (one)?’

Traditionally this use of hierdie and daardie has been regarded as an Anglicism by Afrikaans grammarians (although it is not clear why); thus in traditional grammars dit is prescribed in all such cases. Even those grammarians who condemn this use of hierdie and daardie seem to recognise that opposition to it is now futile.
5.3.4. Word order in relative clauses

As illustrated in the above examples, all relative pronouns send the finite verb to the end of the relative clause; if that clause already contains an infinitive, the finite verb is placed before it, and if it contains a past participle (i.e. if the clause is in the past tense or the passive), the finite verb is placed after the participle, e.g.

(343) Die katjie wat jy nou het, is pragtig.
'The kitten you now have is lovely.'
(344) Die katjie wat ek vir my seun gaan koop, is 'n dik etnetjie.
'The kitten I'm going to buy for my son is a fat little one.'
(345) Die katjie wat jy in Durban gehad het, was wonderlik.
'The kitten you had in Durban was wonderful' (see 12.1.4).

Because Afrikaans requires all infinitives and past participles in the main clause to be placed at the end of that clause, rather than straight after the finite verb as in English, there are often two possible positions for such verbs when a relative clause follows a main clause, e.g.

(346) Ek het die boek al gelees wat jy vir my geleen het / Ek het die boek wat jy vir my geleen het, al gelees.
'I have already read the book that you lent me.'

Holding the verb over till the end of the sentence is only possible where the relative clause is not very long; as soon as the distance between that verb and the auxiliary on which it is dependent (the first het in the above example) becomes somewhat longer, it is preferable to insert it before the relative pronoun – the fact that the relative and its antecedent do not then stand next to each other does not disturb an Afrikaans speaker, although it can seem strange to a speaker of English. In the following example the relative clause is only just short enough to permit the past participle belonging to the main clause to be isolated at the end of the sentence:

(347) Om praktiese redes is 'n keuse uit die omvangryke materiaal waarop die onderzoek gebaseer is, gemaak.
'For practical reasons a selection has been made from the extensive material on which the research was based.'

Note the obligatory comma when this word order is used. Just how long is too long for this word order to apply seems to be rather arbitrary (see 12.1.12).

5.5. The reciprocal pronoun mekaar 'each other'

Mekaar is used very much the same way as 'each other' is in English, e.g.

(351) Die twee staatshoofde sal èrens in Duitsland ontmoet.
'The two heads of state will meet somewhere in Germany.'
(352) Ons het mekaar lief.
'Vee love each other/one another.'
5.6. Indefinite pronouns

(superscript numbers refer to points enumerated in section 5.6.1)

albei, beide
al, alle, almal, algar
al, als, alles
baie, veel
'(n) bietjie
die een...die ander
diegene wat
dié wat
elke/iedere
elkeen/iedereen/almal
enige
enigiemand/enige ieemand
enigiets/enige iets
etlike
iemand
iets
geen/geeneen
(me) meeste
(mens) meeste
(n) mens/jy (jou)
min/weinig
'n paar
(heel)party...party
sommige...ander
sulke(s), so'n/een, diesulkes
van
verskeie
verskillende
dinges 'thingummy, what's-it'

'al'
'all'
'everything'
'much, many'
'a (little) bit'
'(the) one...the other'
'he/the one/those who'
'he/the one/those who/the one(s) which'
'each/every'
'everyone'
'any'
'everyone'
'any'
'anything'
'some, a few'
'somebody'
'something'
'none/not one' (see 13.2.1)
'each other'
'most (of)'
'many a, several'
'one (one's)'
'little'
'a few, a couple of'
'some...others'
'some...others'
'such (a), - like that'
'some (of)'
'several'
'various'

6. Adjectives

Predicative adjectives are never inflected in Afrikaans, e.g.

(444)  *Die meisietjie is skattig.*
'That little girl is sweet.'

(445)  *Die ouens is baie sterk.*
'Those chaps are very strong.'
When used attributively before a noun, many adjectives take an -e, but many do not. Whether or not an ending is required has to do with the phonology of the adjective in question; if it satisfies the criteria for inflection, the adjective takes an -e whenever it stands before a noun, regardless of whether the noun is singular or plural, definite or indefinite. There is still a degree of variability in Afrikaans with respect to whether certain adjectives are or are not inflected and the issue can occasionally also be related to the semantics of a given adjective, some adjectives having both an inflected and an uninflected form, depending on the meaning. There is also a lingering awareness that Dutch inflects more than Afrikaans does and thus inflection, where it is not otherwise required, can lend a formal ring to what is being said, particularly in the case of names, e.g. Vrye Weekblad (the name of a newspaper), die Groote Kerk (in central Cape Town) (see 6.2.3). Adjectival inflection is one of the most difficult issues in Afrikaans grammar and one which does not constitute a simplification compared with the historical situation (see Lass 1990).

6.1. Adjectives that take -e

Traditional grammars give two main rules for the inflection of adjectives: 1) adjectives of more than one syllable, which thus includes all derived adjectives. 2) monosyllabic adjectives ending in d, f, g and s (mnemonic dog fees).

6.5. Adjectival inflection in -s

Although traditional grammar states that when used after an indefinite pronoun an adjective takes -s, this ending is these days commonly omitted, particularly in speech, but omission of the ending is considered non-standard by many, e.g.

(454)   Ek het vandag heelwat/iets interessants gehoor.
  ‘I heard something interesting today.’
(455)   Kan skrywers aan niks beters dink as seks om oor te skryf nie?
  ‘Can’t authors think of anything better than sex to write about?’
(456)   Daar is niks wesenlik verskillends tussen hulle en ons nie.
  ‘There’s nothing essentially different between them and us.’

S inflection of the adjective is most commonly found after iets ‘something’ and niks ‘nothing’ but is now seldom heard after the pronouns baie ‘a lot’, genoeg ‘enough’, iemand ‘someone’ and niemand ‘no-one’, e.g.

(457)   Die kans dat sy iemand spesiaal(s) sal ontmoet, is bitter skraal.
  ‘The chance that she’ll meet someone special is remote.’

S inflection applies to comparatives too, e.g. iets kleiners ‘something smaller’, but even after iets and niks it is now commonly omitted from comparatives, e.g. iets interessanter ‘something more interesting’, Op ’n warm somersdag is daar niks lekkerder as swem in ’n swembad of in die see nie ‘On a hot summer’s day there is nothing nicer than swimming in a pool or in the sea.’ It is always omitted from iets/niks ekstra.
6.6. The comparative of the adjective

The basic rule for the formation of the comparative in Afrikaans is identical to that in English, i.e. by the addition of -er. But the following should be noted: a) addition of -er causes certain predictable spelling changes to the adjective (6.5.1); b) the English tendency to use a periphrastic formation with 'more' for adjectives of two or more syllables is not as prevalent in Afrikaans (see 6.7.1).

As mentioned under 6.1.1.a, comparatives are not inflected when used as attributive adjectives, e.g. die nuwe kragtiger Toyota Hilux ‘the new, more powerful Toyota Hilux’.

6.7. The superlative of the adjective

The basic rule for the formation of the superlative in Afrikaans is similar to that in English, i.e. by the addition of -ste. The superlative ending is actually the -st, to which is added the adjectival inflection -e. Unlike the addition of -e or -er to adjectives, the addition of -st causes no changes in spelling and there are no exceptions to the rule (see 6.7.1); even when an adjective already ends in s, the s is doubled when -ste is applied, e.g. blindste, gladste, koudste, dofste, doofste, styfste, droogste, laagste, moegste, ligste, stugste, stadigste, strengste, Jongste, vasste, frisste, grysste, snaaksste.

Note the following difference between Afrikaans and English: ons jongste seun ‘our younger/youngest son’, die kleinste van die twee/van die drie ‘the smaller of the two/smallest of the three’. Afrikaans uses the superlative in both cases after possessives and the definite article, although the following Anglicism is common:

(466)   Hy is die kleiner een/die kleinere van die twee.
     ‘He is the smaller (one)/the smaller of the two.’
(467)   Daar ontwikkel 'n magsverhouding waarin die een taal op watter grond ook al, die sterkere word.
     ‘A situation of relative power develops in which, for whatever reason, one language emerges as the stronger.’

It is permissible, however, to use a comparative after the indefinite article, e.g.

(468)   Ek het 'n kleiner een.
     ‘I have a smaller one.’

Compare:

(469)   Ek het die kleinste van die twee.
     ‘I have the smaller of the two’ (see 6.3 and 6.7.3).

6.7.2. Irregular adjectival comparatives and superlatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>comparative</th>
<th>superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>goed</td>
<td>beter</td>
<td>beste ‘good, better, best’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kwaad</td>
<td>kwater</td>
<td>kwaadste ‘angry, angrier, angriest’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nuut</td>
<td>nuwer</td>
<td>nuutste ‘new, newer, newest’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.7.1. Use of meer and mees with the comparative and superlative of the adjective

In practice polysyllabic adjectives ending in e form their comparative and superlative periphrastically with meer and mees, e.g. tevrede – meer/mees tevrede ‘more/most satisfied’. Prescriptive works also give forms with -ner and -nste, e.g. tevredener/tevredenste, but such forms are not at all common. Although there are few true adjectives like tevrede that end in e (beskeie ‘modest’, verleë ‘shy’), a large number of strong past participles have survived into Afrikaans, no longer used as verbs, but still very much alive as adjectives, e.g. gespanne ‘stretched, tense’, verlate ‘deserted’, volwasse ‘grown-up, adult’. Strictly speaking they form their comparative and superlative with meer and mees, but one does occasionally find the endings -ner and -nste being applied to them too, e.g. meer/mees verlate ‘more/most deserted’, meer/mees volwasse ‘more/most adult’, meer/mees gespanne ‘more/most tense’. It is difficult to generalise here because a) the frequency of the periphrastic formation versus the other can vary from adjective to adjective, b) the superlative in -ste may be more common than the comparative in -ner for a particular adjective, and c) the frequency of one form or the other may depend on whether it is used attributively or predicatively. A reasonably reliable rule of thumb for the non-native is to always use the forms in meer and mees with such adjectives; this will seldom be wrong even if the other is also possible.

7.1. Adverbial use of adjectives

Generally speaking Afrikaans makes no morphological distinction between the adjective and the adverb, e.g.

(497)     Jy is baie vinnig.
          ‘You are very quick.’
(498)     Jy stap baie vinnig.
          ‘You are walking very quickly.’
(499)     Sy is goed.
          ‘This is good.’
(500)     My dotertjie kan goed lees.
          ‘My daughter can read very well.’
(501)     Hierdie woordeboek is sterk uitgebrei en volledig hersien.
          ‘This dictionary has been greatly expanded and completely revised.’
(502)     Dis ’n sterk uitgebreide, volledig hersiene woordeboek.
          ‘It’s a greatly expanded, completely revised dictionary.’

Also: ’n goed gekwalifiseerde sekretaresse ‘a well qualified secretary’ – compare ’n goeie, gekwalifiseerde sekretaresse ‘a good, qualified secretary’, streng gesproke ‘strictly speaking’.

7.1.1. The comparative of the adverb

The comparative of the adverb is identical to that of the adjective.

7.1.2. The superlative of the adverb

In formation the superlative of the adverb is identical to that of the adjective as far as the addition of an -ste ending is concerned or the periphrastic construction with mees (see 6.7.1). The superlative of adverbs is always preceded by die whereas in English the is optional in such cases.
7.1.3. Irregular adverbial comparatives and superlatives

The irregular adjectival forms goed/beter/beste are also used adverbially rendering 'well/better/best': goed/beter/die beste. Otherwise only the following adverbs are irregular in this respect:

- baie/veel: meer die meeste 'many, more, most'
- na (aan): nader (aan) die naaste (aan) 'near, nearer, nearest'
- weinig/min: minder die minste 'little, less, least'
- graag: lievers die graagste 'gladly/preferably/most of all'

Graag is used as follows:

(509) Ek speel graag voetbal.
'I like playing football' (literally 'I play football gladly').

(510) Maar ek speel lievers hokkie.
'But I prefer playing hockey' (literally 'I play hockey more gladly'
= preferably).

(511) En watter sport speel jy die graagste.
'And what sport do you like playing most?' (literally 'most gladly').

8.1. Paradigm of the present and past tenses of a typical verb

Typically the conjugation of a verb in the present and past (= preterite or perfect) tenses is as follows:

**infinitive:** werk 'to work'

**a) present tense:**
- ek werk 'I work, I am working, I do work'
- jy werk
- hy/sy/dit werk
- ons werk
- julle werk
- hulle werk

**interrogative:** werk ek? 'am I working, do I work?'

**negative:** ek werk nie 'I don't/am not working'

**negative interrogative:** werk ek nie? 'aren't I working, don't I work?'

**b) imperative:**
- werk 'work'
- negative imperative: moenie werk nie 'don't work'

**c) past tense:**
- ek het gewerk 'I worked, I was working, I did work'
- 'I have worked, I have been working'
- 'I had worked, I had been working'

- jy het gewerk
- hy/sy/dit het gewerk
- ons het gewerk
- julle het gewerk
- hulle het gewerk

**interrogative:**
- het ek gewerk? 'was I working, did I work?'
- 'have I worked, have I been working?'
- 'had I worked, had I been working?' etc.

**negative:**
- ek het nie gewerk nie 'I wasn't working/didn't work/haven't worked'

**negative interrogative:**
- het ek nie gewerk nie? 'wasn't I working/didn't I work/haven't I worked?'
8.4. Vestiges of the imperfect
With the few exceptions dealt with in this paragraph, the imperfect of all verbs in Afrikaans has disappeared. In addition to the imperfect of modal auxiliary verbs having survived – note that these are verbs of which the past participle has not survived – there is a handful of other historically irregular verbs whose imperfect still survives today, as well as the past participle. The imperfect and the perfect of these verbs alternate more or less equally commonly, depending on the verb concerned. They are dink (dag/dog, gedag/gedog/gedink) ‘to think’, weet (wis, geweet) ‘to know’, hé (had, gehad) ‘to have’, wees (was, gewees) ‘to be’.

8.5. The perfect tense
Due to the almost total demise of the imperfect tense in Afrikaans (see 8.4 for the exceptions), the “perfect tense” is commonly called simply the “past tense” or the “preterite”.

As the historical distinction between regular and irregular verbs has died out in Afrikaans in favour of the former, the perfect of virtually all verbs is formed in the following way: the finite form of hé, namely het, plus the past participle. The past participle is formed by prefixing ge- to the stem/infinitive of the verb, e.g. gaan-gegaan, loop-geloop, leef/lewe-geleef/gelewe. The only exceptions to this formation are dink (see 8.4) and hé, which has preserved an original irregular form, gehad; even the verb ‘to be’, wees, goes gewees. As the example of leef/lewe illustrates, those verbs which for historical reasons have preserved two stem/infinitive forms (see 8.2–8.2.1), the past participle can be formed from either, thus even the colloquial variants doet, siet and slaat (< doen, sien, slaan) occur in past participles: gedoen/gedoet, gesien/gesiet, geslaan/geslaat.

8.5.1. Verbs that don’t take the prefix ge- in the past tense
The only verbs that do not take a ge- prefix to form the participle, but whose participle is identical to the stem/infinitive, are as follows:

8.5.1.1. Verbs with unstressed prefixes
Verbs that contain an unstressed prefix (i.e. aan-, agter-, deur-, om-, onder-, oor-, voor- or be-, er-, ge-, her-, ont-, ver-), e.g.

8.5.1.2. Verbs ending in -eer
Verbs ending in -eer, many but not all of which are of foreign origin (e.g. halveer ‘to halve’), can theoretically dispense with the perfective prefix but it is more usual to apply it, except in the case of a few very common bisyllabic verbs, where it is not uncommon to omit it, e.g.

8.11. Wees ‘to be’
The infinitive of ‘to be’ is wees. Only wees, of all the verbs that used/used ‘to be’ as their auxiliary in the perfect in Dutch, still requires ‘to be’ as its auxiliary in Afrikaans in the past tense. The forms of wees are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tense</th>
<th>form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>imperative</td>
<td>wees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present</td>
<td>is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imperfect</td>
<td>was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perfect</td>
<td>was geweest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present participle</td>
<td>synde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present subjunctive</td>
<td>sy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imperfect subjunctive</td>
<td>ware</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.12. *Het* ‘to have’

The verbs *het* ‘to have’ and *wees* ‘to be’ are the only verbs where the finite form differs from the infinitive and where forming the past participle is not simply a matter of prefixing *ge-* to the infinitive (historically the stem of the verb). The forms of *het* are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>present</td>
<td><em>het</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imperfect</td>
<td><em>had</em> (archaic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perfect</td>
<td><em>het gehad</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present participle</td>
<td><em>hebbend(e)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the infinitive ‘to have’ is always rendered by *het* when used in combination with the present and imperfect of modal verbs (e.g. *Ek wil dit het* ‘I want to have it’, *Jy sal dit een dag het* ‘You will have it one day’), in compound tenses where it is acting as an auxiliary, only the finite form *het* is used, where in other European languages an infinitive is required.

8.13. Modal auxiliary verbs

The terms present, imperfect, perfect and conditional perfect that follow often refer more to the form of these verbs in a given context than to their function, as the form of an auxiliary ‘or any verb for that matter) required to express a particular tense in Afrikaans frequently differs from what one traditionally expects in a European language. There are five classic modal verbs: *kan* ‘to be able, can’, *mag* ‘to be allowed to, may’, *moet* ‘to have to, must’, *sal* ‘will’, *wil* ‘to want to’. There are several other verbs that also have modal functions (see 8.13.6).

In all the following paradigms of the tenses of modal verbs *doen* is used as a representative of the verb for which the modals are acting as auxiliary.

8.13.1. The present tense of modal verbs

*Ek kan/mag/moet/sal/wil dit doen* ‘I can/may/must/will/want to do it’ (= ‘I am able to/allowed to/have to do it’ etc.).

8.13.2. The imperfect tense of modal verbs

*Ek kon/mog/moes/sou/wou dit doen* ‘I could/was allowed to/had to/would, was going to/wanted to do it’.

The above *mog* is now considered archaic and is replaced in practice by *is/was toegelaat*.

8.13.3. The perfect tense of modal verbs

*Ek het dit altyd kan/kon doen* ‘I have always been able to do it.’

*" mag doen* ‘I have always been allowed to do it.’

*" moet/moes doen* ‘I have always had to do it.’

*" wil/wou doen* ‘I have always wanted to do it.’

In practice the imperfect is preferred to these perfect forms which are rarely used, but if they are used, *kon, moes* and *wou* are more commonly heard than the infinitive forms *kan, moet* and *wil* (compare the constructions with *sou* under 8.13.5).
8.14. The passive voice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Afrikaans example</th>
<th>English example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>&quot;Die boek word gelees&quot;</td>
<td>The book is (being) read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future</td>
<td>&quot;Die boek sal gelees word&quot;</td>
<td>The book will be read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfect</td>
<td>&quot;Die boek is gelees&quot;</td>
<td>The book was (being) read/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The book has been read/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(also = The book had been read).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pluperfect</td>
<td>&quot;Die boek was gelees&quot;</td>
<td>The book had been read/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(also = The book was read/)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The book has been read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Perfect</td>
<td>&quot;Die boek sal gelees gewees het&quot;</td>
<td>The book will have been read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditional Perfect</td>
<td>&quot;Die boek sou gelees gewees het&quot;</td>
<td>The book would have been read.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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42 The present passive is formed with the auxiliary word, the verb ‘to become’, but in non-passive contexts word in the sense of ‘to become’ is very commonly replaced by raak, e.g. "Ek raak/word deesdae baie gou moeg" ‘I get tired very quickly these days’, "Dit was beter voordat alles so gerekoniseer geraak het" ‘It was better before everything became so computerised’.

8.14.7. Use of daar with passives

"Daar" in passive constructions can render both English ‘there’ and ‘it’, e.g.

(924) "Daar word gesê dat..."
     ‘It is said that...’

(925) "Daar is veel gedrink."
     ‘There was a lot drunk/A lot was drunk.’

This concept is dealt with under pronouns (see 5.1.1.3.7).

8.15. Separable and inseparable verbs

Many Afrikaans verbs are formed from compounds of a prefix plus a verbal stem. These prefixes, many but not all of which are in fact prepositions, are called inseparable or separable, depending respectively on whether they remain attached to the verbal stem in all tenses and constructions or not; compare English "to undergo" (inseparable), "to go under/down" (separable), which in Afrikaans are "ondergaan" and "ondergaan". The two categories are distinguishable in both languages by where the stress occurs in the word. Generally speaking inseparable verbs tend to be more figurative in meaning, whereas the literal meaning of the component parts is often more obvious in separable verbs, as the above examples illustrate.

8.20.1. Reflexive pronouns

The reflexive pronouns are identical to the object pronouns (see 5.1), to which, under certain circumstances, -self is added (see 8.20.4):

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>my(self)</td>
<td>myself</td>
<td>ons(self)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jou(self)</td>
<td>yourself</td>
<td>julle / jul(self)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u(self)</td>
<td>yourself</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hom(self)</td>
<td>himself</td>
<td>hulle / hul(self)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haar(self)</td>
<td>herself</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hom(self)</td>
<td>itself</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9.1. Co-ordinating conjunctions
Co-ordinating conjunctions can connect words, phrases or clauses. Subordinating conjunctions can only connect clauses and the main distinction between a co-ordinating and a subordinating conjunction in Afrikaans is that the latter causes the finite verb in the clause which it introduces to be sent to the end, or near to the end, whereas a co-ordinating conjunction has no effect on word order. In addition, as in English, it is not possible to put a co-ordinating clause before a main clause, which is however possible with a subordinating clause.

There are only four co-ordinating conjunctions:

\[\begin{array}{ll}
\textit{en} & \text{`and'} \\
\textit{maar} & \text{`but'} \\
\textit{of} & \text{`or'}^1 \\
\textit{want} & \text{`for, because'}^2
\end{array}\]

9.2. Adverbial conjunctions
It is traditional for grammars to regard certain common adverbs such as the following as conjunctions: \textit{anders} ‘otherwise’, \textit{daarom} ‘therefore’, \textit{daarenteen} ‘on the other hand’, \textit{derhalwe} ‘therefore’, \textit{dus} ‘thus, therefore’, \textit{gevolglik} ‘consequently, as a result’, \textit{nietermin} ‘nevertheless’, \textit{tog/dog} ‘but, yet, nevertheless’. This view of such words is based on the fact that they commonly stand at the beginning of clauses, thus assuming a connecting function.

9.3. Correlative conjunctions
Correlative conjunctions are conjonctional couplets which can stand either together with only one clause following, or separately with a clause following each conjunction in the couplet. They are further subdivided depending on the word order required after each of the conjunctions concerned. Correlative couplets can consist of a) two co-ordinating conjunctions, b) two adverbial conjunctions, c) a subordinating conjunction + an adverbial conjunction or d) an adverbial conjunction + a co-ordinating conjunction.

9.4. Subordinating conjunctions
A clause introduced by any of the following conjunctions is regarded as being subordinate to the main clause and this is reflected in the position of the finite verb in the two clauses: the finite verb in the main clause is always the second idea in that clause (see 12.1), while that in the subordinate clause is the last idea (see 12.1.4). As in English, the subordinate clause can either precede or follow the main clause; when it precedes, inversion of subject and verb in the main clause results, e.g.

9.6. Conjunctions which introduce infinitive clauses
The following conjunctions can introduce an infinitive clause, i.e. a clause which contains an infinitive instead of a finite verb and whose implied subject is the same as the main clause.

\[\begin{array}{llll}
deur & \text{`by'} & \text{sonder om} & \text{`without'} \\
\text{om} & \text{`(in order) to; only to'} & \text{ten einde} & \text{`in order to'} \\
\text{in plaas van} & \text{`instead of'} & \text{pleks van} & \text{`in stede van (om)}
\end{array}\]

The conjunction stands at the beginning of the clause and \textit{te} prior to the infinitive, which stands at the end of the clause,
10. Interrogatives

The following interrogative adverbs and pronouns all behave the same syntactically. The superscript numbers refer to the points enumerated below:

hoë - 'how'
hoedat - 'how'
hoekom - 'why, how come'
hoeveel - 'how much/many'
waar - 'where'
van waar, waarvandaan - 'where from'
waarheen/-natoe - 'where (to)'
waarom - 'why'
wanneer - 'when'
wat - 'what'
wat van - 'what about'
watter - 'which'
watter soort - 'which, what sort/kind of'
in/tot watter mate, in hoeverre, in hoe 'n mate - 'to what extent'
welke - 'which'
wie - 'who'
wie se/s'n - 'whose'

10.1. Word order in interrogative clauses

In direct questions these words resemble English in requiring inversion of subject and verb, e.g.

(1240)  Waar is die wildtuin?
        'Where is the game park?'

(1241)  Watter soort bok is dié?
        'What kind of buck is that?'

(1242)  Hoe laat is dit?
        'What time is it?'

In indirect questions two word orders occur:

a) the inverted order of the direct question is retained, e.g.

b) the interrogative acts in a similar way to a subordinating conjunction thereby sending the finite verb to the end of the clause. This is the historically correct form and the one that will normally be found in writing:

12.1.1. Position of the finite verb in a single clause statement

In a single clause statement containing one verb, a finite verb, that verb is always the second idea or concept in the sentence, unlike English, e.g.

12.1.3. Position of additional verbs in a main clause

If more than one verb occurs in the clause, i.e. if the finite verb is followed by a past participle and/or one or more infinitives, all these additional verbs are sent to the end of the clause, e.g.
12.1.4. Position of verbs in subordinate and relative clauses

12.1.4.1. One verb
In a subordinate or relative clause introduced by a subordinating conjunction (see 9.4) or a relative pronoun (see 5.3) respectively, the finite verb is placed at the end of that clause.

In the following example, the relative clause (wat jy in jou hand het) is embedded in the main clause (Die potlood is myne) and the verb in the relative clause, het, stands at the end of the clause, while the verb in the main clause, is, stands in second position in its clause, i.e.

(1518)  Die potlood wat jy in jou hand het, is myne.
‘The pencil (that) you have in your hand is mine.’

When relative clauses are embedded in this way, the verbs of the two clauses end up adjacent and are consequently commonly separated by a comma to assist the eye, particularly when they are the same verb, e.g.

(1519)  Die baadjie wat ek aan het, het ek in Hong Kong laat maak.
‘The coat I’ve got on I had made in Hong Kong.’

12.1.4.2. More than one verb
When a subordinate or relative clause contains more than one verb, i.e. when the finite verb is followed by a past participle and/or one or more infinitives, the finite verb in such cases must also shift towards the end of the clause but its order in relation to the other verbs depends on whether those other verbs are a past participle or (an) infinitive(s), i.e. when the second verb is a past participle, the finite verb, het, must follow the participle;

13. Negation
Afrikaans is perhaps best known for its double negation, the full intricacies of which are quite difficult to master. The exact origins of the so-called double negative in Afrikaans are still not fully understood. In the description that follows, the term “scope marker” is used to refer to the second negative particle, nie, where one is required, whereas the first is called the “negator”.

13.1. The negators
The following words negate: geen / g’n ‘no, not a/any’, geeneen ‘not one’, geensins ‘by no means, not in any way’; nêrens ‘nowhere’, nie ‘not’, niemand ‘no-one, nobody’, niks ‘nothing’, nooit ‘never’. In certain limited contexts they function alone, but in the majority of cases they are complemented by a nie (the scope marker), which demarcates the extent of the negation.

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13.2. Rules for the use and position of the scope marker

If a sentence consists of only a subject and a finite verb, only the negator is required, e.g.

(1769)  *Ek weet nie.*  
'I don't know.'

(1770)  *Hy bid nooit.*  
'He never prays.'

If it consists of only a subject, verb and a pronominal object, once again only the negator is required, e.g.

(1771)  *Weet jy dit nie?*  
'Don't you know that?'

(1772)  *Ek ken hom nie.*  
'I don't know him.'

(see 13.3.1 for the addition of an optional scope marker where the negator stands in final position.)

If a sentence consists of only a subject, a finite verb and a direct or indirect object and it begins with that object for emphasis (see 12.7), the negator ends up in final position because of the inversion of the subject and finite verb and therefore a scope marker is not required, e.g.

(1773)  *Vir hom sien jy nooit (= Jy sien nooit vir hom nie).*  
'You never see him.'

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1 For example *Jy mag geensins hiervan gebruik maak nie* 'You may not use this under any circumstances/You may not by any means use this'.

2 The emphatic phrase ‘never ever’ is expressed by *nooit ofte/as te nimmer*, e.g. *Dis 'n vakansie wat jy nooit as/of te nimmer sal vergeet nie* 'It's a holiday you will never ever forget'. *Nimmer*, an archaic word for ‘never’, also occurs in *nimmereindigend* ‘never-ending’.