

# AFRIKAANS

**COUNTRY:** South Africa

**POST:** Pretoria

Afrikaans and English are the two official languages of South Africa.

Although Afrikaans and English are closely allied languages belonging to the same family of the Germanic group, Afrikaans is a more modern language (later origin) and therefore has fewer inflections. It is also more direct and precise than English. Once the pronunciation of the language is mastered, writing it will pose few problems. Gender is determined by sex as in English and not according to grammatical distinction as in Latin or German. Inanimate objects are often treated as masculine but never as feminine, as are animals unless the sex is known.