

BBC Learning English

Talk about English

Live webcast

Thursday July 27th, 2006



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About this script

Please note that this is not a word for word transcript of the programme as broadcast. In the recording process changes may have been made which will not be reflected here.

Anna: Hello I'm Anna Jones

Jackie: And I'm Jackie Dalton

Anna: And this is Talk about English coming to you live from our offices at BBC Learning English in London.

Jackie: And coming up today

Anna: Music from Johnny Clegg

Jackie: All you ever needed to know about apostrophes

Anna: We'll take a look at the language behind the headlines

Jackie: there's an opportunity to enter our competition and win a BBC Learning English prize

Anna: and, as usual, the latest from our online soap, The Flatmates

We have, at last, achieved our **political emancipation**. We enter into a **covenant** that we shall build the society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, a **rainbow nation** at peace with itself and the world.

Anna: And that of course was part of the famous rainbow nation speech by Nelson Mandela following democratic elections in 1994.in South Africa - and we'll be taking a closer look at the language of that speech later in the programme. And before Mandela's speech we heard some music by the South African band Lady Smith Black Mambazo. Well that probably gives you a clue about our topic for this week's webcast – it's about South Africa. – this month's country featured on the Your World section of our website. Jackie have you ever been to South Africa?

Jackie: (replies)

Anna: Well I went to Durban once to do workshops with students and teachers for a radio series.but would love to go back and see more of the country. Well to give us an insight in to some of the languages spoken in South Africa today we're joined by Carola Mostert.. Carola moved here from South Africa about 10 years ago and teaches at the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University. Hello Carola and welcome to the programme

Carola: Hello – I'm happy to be here.

Anna: Tell us about your work here Carola - what do you teach?

Anna: And who are your students? Why do people want to learn Afrikaans and Zulu here in London?

Anna: OK – well we'll be talking to Carola throughout today's webcast and she'll be answering some of your questions later in the programme.

Anna: Yes, it's time for this week's competition. If you would like to win a BBC Learning English prize then e-mail us the answer to this question. How many official languages are there in South Africa? You'll hear the answer in today's webcast or you can find it by clicking on the 'Communicate' section of the website.

Jackie: And that's our competition question this week – how many official languages are there in South Africa?' Email us the answer now to talkaboutenglish@bbc.co.uk That's talkaboutenglish@bbc.co.uk

Anna: And don't forget our live webcast vote – would you like to visit South Africa? Let us know by voting on our website now. We'll give you the results at the end of the programme. Well we've been asking some of our colleagues the same question and this is what they said.

Jackie: Well we heard some lovely adjectives and descriptive language there – lots of different ways of describing a beautiful place

Anna: Now it's time to hear the first part of Jackie's report on musician Johnnie Clegg who was born in England but spent much of his early life in southern Africa which proved to be a great inspiration while developing his own musical style.

Jackie: This week, we look at work done by one of South Africa's most popular performers. We'll find out about some of the topics he explores in his music, and look at some vocabulary and practise a bit of listening comprehension along the way.

Jackie: Johnny Clegg is not a **household name** in the UK – not a household name, meaning not many people in the UK know him. But he certainly is a household name in South Africa, and seen by many there as a hero. He mixes Western melodies with Zulu musical styles and English and Zulu lyrics.

Jackie: Johnny Clegg was born in England but brought up in South Africa during **the apartheid era** – the period in time when only white people in South Africa had full political rights. People of other races, especially black people, were forced to go to different schools and live in different areas. From the beginning Johnny played to mixed-raced audiences, even though this angered apartheid authorities. Johnny sings about issues related to apartheid in many of his songs. Listen to the words of this one:

Jackie: The song is called Human **Rainbow**. A rainbow is a big curve of many different colours that you sometimes see in the sky when there's both sun and rain. In the song Johnny talks about a searching for a human rainbow. It suggests the idea of people of all different races and colours brought together to create something harmonious and beautiful. Does he think this is something we've managed to achieve? Listen again to the words.

Jackie: Johnny says he wonders why we can never free the rainbow from the sky, suggesting the different colours and races have still not managed to come together. It's just a dream, an ideal, something we can't actually reach and make real.

Anna: And we'll be hearing the second part of Jackie's report on Johnny Clegg a little later in the programme. Now back to our special guest this week, Carola Mostert who works at the School of Oriental and African Studies here in

London and is a teacher of Zulu and Afrikaans. What are the main difficulties that your students face when starting to learn Zulu?

Anna: And what about Afrikaans – what are the main difficulties students have when they first start to learn Afrikaans?

Anna: Now as we know Zulu and Afrikaans are just 2 of the 11 official languages in South Africa. What other official languages exist?

Anna: Which is the most widely spoken language? Why?

Anna: What's the role of English? Is it widely spoken?

Jackie: Roberto from Italy has a question for you about English in South African schools. Are school students taught in English in some schools or is it a subject like Maths or Geography?

Anna: Can you teach me and Jackie a couple of words in Zulu?

Anna: You're listening to Talk about English. I'm Anna Jones,

Jackie: I'm Jackie Dalton

Carola: And I'm Carola Mostert

Jackie: And that was the South African musician Hugh Masekela. And today's webcast topic is South Africa which is also the subject of this week's competition. And the question is: How many official languages are there in South Africa? You'll hear the answer in today's webcast or you can find it by clicking on the 'Communicate' section of the website.

Anna: And that's our competition question this week – how many official languages are there in South Africa?' Email us the answer now to talkaboutenglish@bbc.co.uk That's talkaboutenglish@bbc.co.uk

Jackie: And don't forget our live webcast vote – would you like to visit South Africa? Let us know by voting on our website now. We'll give you the results at the end of the programme.

Anna: But before that here's Jackie with the second part of her report on Johnnie Clegg.

Jackie: As well as a musician, Johnny Clegg was a university lecturer in **anthropology** – the study of people and cultures and how they live. He works to educate people about the problems faced in developing African democracies. In fact, I even remember him coming to my school once to talk about inequality in South Africa – **inequality**, unfairness – another theme that comes up in his songs.

Jackie: Johnny talks about how everyone wants to be bigger a more successful than they are. He says the mice want to be dogs and the dogs want to be **fat cats**. 'A fat cat' is a phrase used to describe someone who has too much money, or is paid too much for what they do.

Jackie: He says it's strange how while some people find it difficult to survive – hard to stay alive, others **live it up**, which means they do what they want and spend lots of money. But Johnny Clegg's music isn't all politics. Many of his songs are about relationships and the different ways people come together.

Jackie: Before we listen to one more of Johnny Clegg's songs, let's recap on some of the phrases that came up.

A household name – when someone is very well known.

Apartheid – a period when only white people in South Africa had full political rights and other races had to live separately.

A rainbow – a curve of many different colours in the sky.

Anthropology – the study of people and cultures and how they live.

Inequality – unfairness.

'A fat cat' - someone who has too much money.

To live it up – to do what you want and spend lots of money.

Jackie: To end, let's hear one of Johnny's most popular songs – Scatterlings of Africa.
For more English practise, don't forget to visit our website:
bbclearningenglish.com

Jackie: Well as we promised earlier here's part of Nelson Mandela's rainbow nation speech again. Listen out for the words that he uses that mean to have political freedom

We have, at last, achieved our **political emancipation**. We enter into a **covenant** that we shall build the society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, a **rainbow nation** at peace with itself and the world.

Jackie: Well the words used by Mandela which mean to have political freedom are “political emancipation” - “political emancipation.” He also said that South Africa was entering into a “covenant” – a “covenant” means an agreement or promise between two or more people. And of course the phrase that has been repeated so often since he made this speech – he talks about a “rainbow nation” meaning a country that is made up of many different people.

Anna: Thanks Jackie. Well staying in South Africa, we're joined on the telephone now by Mrs Kanya Padayachee who is Head of the Department of Languages at Isipingo Secondary School in Durban in South Africa

Jackie: We also asked you to write with your questions about South Africa and here's one from

Anna: This is Talk about English, live from BBClearningenglish.com. I'm Anna Jones

Jackie: I'm Jackie Dalton

Carola: And I'm Carola Mostert

Jackie: That was Mike Johnson presenting last week's World Business Report on the BBC World Service. Now have you ever wished you could understand more of business news stories? Well in next week's webcast we cover some of the technical language of business news and give you the chance to ask language and finance experts to explain key terms. So please do get in touch with your questions, for example: What's a takeover? What does GDP per head mean? What are shares? What's a trade deficit? Now's your chance to find out – write to us with your question and don't forget to include your telephone number and you may appear live on the programme.

Anna: So don't forget to send in your business questions. Now its time to hear a question about apostrophes from Kath and Tracy. What is the correct way to put an 's' on the end of a name that ends in 's'? Here's language expert George Pickering.

Well Kath and Tracy, thanks for asking a very interesting question. In fact, this is one of those questions that is hard to answer definitively as usage is changing.

Most current guides to British English punctuation state that after names which end in **s**, you add an apostrophe and an **s**.

e.g. **Jones's book** – **Jones'** would end **s** + apostrophe **s**

However, names from the ancient world are often written with just an apostrophe

e.g. **Achilles' anger** – the ending would be **s** + apostrophe

It is also customary to make an exception for names that end with an **'iz'** sound.

e.g. **Moses'** leadership. **Moses'** would end **s** + apostrophe

And **Wayne Bridges'** left foot, where **Bridges'** would end **s** + apostrophe

I hope that clarifies matters for you.

Anna: And thanks to language expert George Pickering.

Anna: Now its time to join the Flatmates. And this week they're having a bar-b-q to cheer themselves up after their return from the World Cup.

Michal: Hi, (welcome! Nice to meet you.) Come on in and have a drink. We're just firing up the barbecue.

Khalid: Nice to see you outside the classroom my friend. Thanks for inviting me.

Helen: Oh it's lovely to meet you Khalid. Michal's told us all about you.

Tim: Who's for the best grub over hot coals this summer?

All: Me!

Alice: Drinks anyone? Can I get you a top-up Dr Laver?

Dr Laver: Oh come on. We've been working together for how long , looked after how many babies? I'm here at your party? Please, my name's Paul. And how about a dance before that drink?

Alice: OK!

John: Great party! Thanks so much for asking me.

Helen: Maybe it IS time to patch it up. But I didn't invite you.

John: Well, here's a toast to the secret peace-maker.

Helen: I'll drink to that!

Jackie: So, who do you think invited John to the party? Was it Helen, Michal or Tim?You can decide by voting on the Flatmates website, that's

bbclearningenglish.com/flatmates. You can also find out more about the language and vocabulary of the Flatmates and do exercises and quizzes.

Anna: Now its time to look at language in this week's press. And our first headline is: from the Suth African Daily News online:

HEADLINE: 2010 ticket shock for South Africa

Anna: Carola, what do you think this story is about?

Jackie: Now it's time to find out the results of our live webcast vote. And our vote this week was: Would you like to visit South Africa?
And the results are.....

Anna: And I believe we also have a winner of today's competition. Congratulations to our winner who isfrom.....And the answer to our competition – how many official languages are there in South Africa is is of course - 11

Anna: Well a big thank you to our guests this week Carola here in London and Kanya ,.....and in Durban and of course to Jackie. That's all from today's live Talk about English. Don't forget to join us next week at the same time 12.15 GMT. Don't worry if you missed some of the live broadcast, you can listen again on the website, bbclearningenglish.com.....Bye for now.