

Question 35: Do you speak Ndebele?

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Ndebele is a Bantu language spoken by 12 million people in southern Africa (mainly Zimbabwe).

Below are some phrases from the Ndebele language, along with their English translations.

<i>Ufuna ukunatha itiyane na?</i>	Do you want to drink tea?
<i>Yebo, ngiyafuna.</i>	Yes, I do (want to).
<i>Sifuna ukuhamba.</i>	We want to go.
<i>Umfana uyapheka.</i>	The boy is cooking.
<i>Ngifunda ukupheka angithi?</i>	I am learning to cook, aren't I?
<i>Abafana bayahamba.</i>	The boys are going.
<i>Abangane bayahamba na?</i>	Are the friends going?
<i>Umngane uyahamba angithi?</i>	The friend is going, isn't he?
<i>Abafana banatha itiyane na?</i>	Are the boys drinking tea?
<i>Umngane uyanatha.</i>	The friend is drinking.
<i>Banjani abantwana?</i>	How are the children?
<i>Uthunga njani?</i>	How do you sew?
<i>Ufuna ukufunda angithi?</i>	He wants to learn, doesn't he?
<i>Yebo, uyafuna.</i>	Yes, he does (want to).
<i>Bangaphi abafana?</i>	Where are the boys?
<i>Ubaba ubona umfana.</i>	Father sees the boy.
<i>Ngifunda ukukhuluma indebele ngaphi?</i>	Where do I learn to speak Ndebele?

E1. Translate the following sentences into English:

- (a) *Yebo, bafuna ukubona.*
- (b) *Umfana ufunda ukuthunga njani?*
- (c) *Singaphi?*
- (d) *Ngipheka itiyane.*

E2. Translate the following sentences into Ndebele:

- (a) How is the child?
- (b) We are learning to cook, aren't we?
- (c) Yes, they are speaking.
- (d) Do they want to see the father?

E3. The following sentence has two possible translations. Give them both, and explain why it is ambiguous.

Ukhuluma indebele angithi?

E4. (Bonus marks) Briefly summarise the rules of Ndebele grammar seen in these examples.