

ZULU CORE VOCABULARY FOR AAC

Appendix

Core Formatives, Including Number of Occurrences, Composite Frequency, Commonality Scores, and Translations

Descriptors	# of occurrences	Composite frequency %	Commonality score	Dictionary translation of content formative <sup>a</sup>	Formative in most frequently used word(s) from composite list <sup>b</sup>	Dictionary translation of most frequently used words (from list) <sup>a, c</sup>
Concord first person singular	1057	5.249	6		<i>Ngicela</i>	Please
Concord second person singular	809	4.017	6		<i>Unamanga</i>	You are lying
Child name	561	2.786	6		<i>WeCN</i>	Hey CN <sup>d</sup>
Concord Class 1	513	2.548	6		<i>Uphi?</i>	Where is he/she
Concord Class 15	440	2.185	6		<i>Kugcine</i>	In the end it...
Pronoun first person singular	438	2.175	6	I; me; myself	<i>Mina; nami; okwami</i>	Me; and me; it's mine
Present tense formative	425	2.111	6		<i>Ngiyadlala</i>	I am playing/joking
Possessive concord	394	1.957	6		<i>Okwami</i>	It's mine
Adverbial formative <i>na</i>	376	1.867	6		<i>Unamanga</i>	You are lying
Noun Class 1a	343	1.703	6		<i>Umisi; uCN</i>	Miss; CN
Concord Class 9	338	1.679	6		<i>Ini? ingaka</i>	What? It is this big
Vocative formative	300	1.490	6		<i>WeCN</i>	Hey CN
Relative formative	297	1.475	6		<i>Okwami</i>	It's mine
Concord first person plural	296	1.470	6		<i>Sizokuceba</i>	We will tell on you
Interjection <i>yebo</i>	288	1.430	6	Yes	<i>Yebo</i>	Yes
Future formative	287	1.425	6		<i>Ngizokuceba</i>	I will tell on you

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Demonstrative formative	281	1.395	6		<u>Lo</u> (ie lomuntu)	Him
Pronoun second person singular	270	1.341	6	You	<u>Wena</u> ; <u>nawe</u> ; <u>wakho</u>	You; and you; yours
Noun prefix Class 5	257	1.276	6		<u>Igama</u>	Name
Locative	247	1.227	6		<u>Ekhaya</u>	At home
Concord Class 5	237	1.177	6		<u>Liphi</u>	Where is it
Negative prefix	237	1.177	6		<u>Angifuni</u>	I don't want
Concord Class 2	236	1.172	6		<u>Bayangena</u>	They are entering
Verb root <i>ithi</i>	225	1.117	6	Say; intend; think	<u>Awuthi</u>	Say; let me;
Noun prefix Class 9	211	1.048	6		<u>Imali</u>	Money
Noun prefix Class 6	179	.889	6		<u>Amanga</u>	Lies
Hortative	174	.864	6		<u>As'hambe</u>	Let's go
Noun prefix Class 15	171	.850	6		<u>Ukuthi</u> ; <u>ukudla</u>	To ; food
Adverbial formative LA	165	.819	6	Here	<u>Woza la</u>	Come here
Noun prefix Class 3	144	.715	6		<u>Umsindo</u>	Noise
Exclusive aspect formative	137	.680	6		<u>Sengiqedile</u>	I have finished now
Pronoun Class 1	135	.670	5	He; him; himself; she; her; herself	<u>Yena</u> ; <u>naye</u> ; <u>lakhe</u>	He/she; and him/her; his/hers
Noun Class prefix Class 7	132	.656	6		<u>Isikhwama</u>	Bag

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Interrogative <i>eh</i>	128	.636	6		<i>Eh?</i>	Huh?
Pronoun Class 9	124	.616	6	It; itself	<i>Yona; akusiyo</i>	It; its not it
Concord Class 7	122	.606	6		<i>Siphi</i>	Where is it
Concord Class 3	121	.601	6		<i>Uphi</i>	Where is it
Pronoun Class 15	120	.596	6	It; itself	<i>Kona; nakho</i>	It; and it
Presentative formative	120	.596	6	Here 'they' are/ here 'it' is / here 'he' is etc	<i>Nakhu</i>	Here it is
Verb root <i>buka</i>	117	.581	6	Look at; watch; admire	<i>Buka</i>	Look
Past tense concordial formative	116	.576	6		<i>Wathi</i>	He/she said
Verb root <i>bona</i>	114	.566	6	See; understand; give regards	<i>Uyabona</i>	Do you see?
Adjectival formative	111	.551	6		<i>Omunye</i>	Another
Verb root <i>ukuya</i>	106	.526	6	Go to	<i>Uyaphi</i>	Where are you going?
Concord Class 10	105	.521	6		<i>Ziyafana</i>	They are the same
Verb root <i>funa</i>	105	.5.21	6	Search; want; desire	<i>Ufuna</i>	You want
Noun prefix Class 10	101	.502	6		<i>Izingodo</i>	Logs
Verb extension ; applied	99	.492	6		<i>Uzongithengela</i>	She/he will buy for me
Verb root <i>dlala</i>	98	.487	6	Play; dance; frolic	<i>Ngiyadlala</i>	I am playing/joking
Verb root <i>hamba</i>	97	.482	6	Walk; go; travel	<i>Hamba</i>	Go (imperative)
Plural imperative	94	.467	6		<i>Asihambeni</i>	Let's all go

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Concord Class 6	89	.442	6		<u>Akhona</u>	There are some
Adverbial formative <i>nga</i>	88	.437	6		<u>Ngezandla</u>	Using hands
Suffix <i>ke</i>	86	.427	6		<u>Wozake</u>	Come then
Negative infix	82	.407	6		<u>Ungamtsheli</u>	Don't tell her/him
Noun root <i>uMisi</i>	81	.402	6	Lady teacher	<u>uMisi</u>	Miss
Relative root <i>phi</i>	81	.402	6	Where	<u>Kuphi</u>	Where
Adverbial formative <i>ka</i>	79	.392	6		<u>Kanje</u>	Like this/ in this way
Verb root <i>ipha</i>	78	.387	6	Give	<u>Ungiphe</u>	You give me
Demonstrative relative <i>nje</i>	76	.377	6	Such as this; like this	<u>Nje; Kanje</u>	Just <sup>f</sup>
Verb root <i>cela</i>	76	.377	5	Request; negotiate for a wife; be almost	<u>Ngicela</u>	Please
Pronoun Class 3	76	.377	4	It; itself	<u>Wona; ngawo; akuwona</u>	It; with it; it is not it
Verb extension ; causative	74	.367	6		<u>Buyisa</u>	Bring it back
Enumerative root <i>ni</i>	73	.363	6	What; of what sort	<u>Ini; wenzani</u>	What; what are you doing
Adverb root <i>khona</i>	71	.353	6	Of place; here; there	<u>Khona; akekho</u>	There; not there.
Interjection <i>ehhe</i>	70	.348	6		<i>Ehhe</i>	(Vocalization to indicate agreement)
Verb root <i>bhala</i>	70	.348	6	Write; write an examination	<u>Ukubhala</u>	To write

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Verb root <i>ceba</i>	70	.348	5	Report someone; invent; plot against; be rich	<i>Ngizokuceba</i>	I will tell on you
Concord second person plural	67	.333	6		<i>Niyamsaba</i>	I am scared of him
Pronoun Class 5	64	.318	5	It; itself	<i>Lona; lilodwa</i>	It; there is one
Copulative formative	63	.313	6		<i>Yimi</i>	It is me
Verb root <i>woza</i>	60	.298	6	Come	<i>Woza</i>	Come (imperative)
Verb root <i>azi</i>	58	.288	6	Know	<i>Angikwazi</i>	I don't know it/how
Pronoun second person plural	56	.278	6		<i>Nina; yenina; okwenu</i>	You; hey you; it is yours
Verb root <i>shaya</i>	56	.278	6	Strike; punish; play (as an instrument)	<i>Ngizokushaya</i>	I will hit you
Progressive aspect formative	55	.273	6		<i>Ngisaya</i>	I am still going
Noun root <i>into</i>	54	.268	6	Thing; object	<i>Lento</i>	This thing
Verb root <i>faka</i>	53	.263	6	Put in; put on; put around; commencement of udder to fill with milk	<i>Faka</i>	Put
Noun root <i>amanga</i>	52	.258	6	Lie; untruth	<i>Unamanga</i>	You are lying
Noun root <i>isikhwama</i>	52	.258	6	Small bag; pocket; purse; fund	<i>Isikhwama</i>	Bag

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Noun root <i>ubani</i>	49	.243	6	Who?	<i>Ubani</i>	Who
Noun prefix Class 1	48	.238	6		<i>Umntu</i>	Person
Verb root <i>thata</i>	48	.238	6	Take; marry	<i>Thatha</i>	Take
Name non-present	47	.233	6		<i>uNN</i>	NN
Conjunction <i>uma</i>	46	.228	6	If; when	<i>Uma</i>	If; when
Enumerative formative	46	.228	6		<i>Muhle</i>	He/she is pretty
Verb root <i>enza</i>	46	.228	6	Do; make	<i>Wenzani</i>	What are you doing
Verb root <i>zwani</i>	46	.228	6	Hear; listen; taste; smell; feel; sense; live; be alive	<i>Uyezwa?</i>	Do you understand/hear/feel etc
Demonstrative formative position C	44	.219	6		<i>Loya (mntu)</i>	That (person)
Verb root <i>idla</i>	44	.219	6	Eat; confiscate; eat into; cost	<i>Asidleni</i>	Let's all eat
Adverb <i>phela</i>	43	.214	6	Indeed; truly	<i>Phela</i>	
Verb root <i>hlala</i>	43	.214	6	Sit; stay; remain	<i>Hlala</i>	Sit (imperative)
Noun root <i>umuntu</i>	42	.209	6	Human being; African; one with human feelings; blunt instrument (as knife)	<i>Umntu</i>	Person
Adverb root <i>lapha</i>	42	.209	5	Here	<i>Lapha</i>	Here

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Interjection <i>mi/mina</i>	41	.204	6	Here take	<u>Mina</u> ; ( <i>thatha</i> )	Take this
Interrogative <i>yini</i>	41	.204	6	What is it; is it so	<u>Yini</u> ?	What is it
Verb root <i>ngeke</i>	41	.204	6	Never	<u>Ngeke</u>	Never
Pronoun first person plural	40	.199	6	We; us	<u>Thina</u> ; <u>sonke</u> ; <u>zethu</u>	Us; all of us; ours
Noun root <i>ikhaya</i>	40	.199	6	Home	<u>Ekhaya</u>	At home
Pronoun Class 7	39	.194	3	It; itself	<u>Sona</u> ; <u>akusiso</u> ; <u>elaso</u>	(It); it is not it; it belongs to it
Verb root <i>nikeza</i>	38	.189	6	Give; tell off; pass on; hand over	<u>Nika</u>	Give (imperative)
Verb root <i>letha</i>	36	.179	5	Bring	<u>Letha</u>	Bring
Conjunction <i>ngoba</i>	35	.174	6	Because	<u>Ngoba</u>	Because
Verb root <i>isho</i>	33	.164	6	Say; mean	<u>Ngisho</u>	I mean
Verb root <i>tshela</i>	33	.164	6	Tell	<u>Ngizomtshela</u>	I will tell him/her
Verb root <i>ukuba</i>	33	.164	6	To be; if; in order that; because	<u>Ukuba</u>	To be
Interjection <i>ehenna</i>	32	.159	6		<u>Ehenna</u>	(Vocalization to indicate disagreement)
Verb root <i>qala</i>	32	.159	6	Begin; commence; annoy	<u>Okokuqala</u>	The first one; first of all
Arjective root <i>nye</i>	31	.154	6	Some; other	<u>Omunye</u>	Another

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Noun root <i>ingane</i>	31	.154	6	Child	<u>Ingane</u>	Baby/ child
Interjection <i>mh</i>	31	.154	5		<i>Mh</i>	(Vocalization to indicate agreement)
Demonstrative formative Position B	29	.144	6		<i>Lowoke; lokhoke</i>	That (person); that (thing)
Verb root <i>kade</i>	29	.144	6	Of action just completed	<u>Kade ngisadlala</u>	I was still playing
Verb root <i>qeda</i>	29	.144	6	Finish; complete	<u>Sengiqedile</u>	I am finished now
Noun prefix Class 2a	28	.139	6		<u>Omama; oCN</u>	Mothers; CN and his fellows
Verb root <i>yeka</i>	28	.139	6	Leave off; stop; let go	<u>Ongiyeke</u>	Leave me alone
Verbal extension passive	28	.139	6		<u>Uhlulwa</u>	You are defeated by...
Interjection <i>a</i>	28	.139	5		<i>A! (yini ke le)</i>	
Verb root <i>beka</i>	28	.139	3	Put; place; select pup	<u>Uyabeka</u>	You are putting
Verb root <i>suka</i>	27	.134	5	Go off; commence; originate	<u>Suka</u>	Go away
Pronoun Class 6	27	.134	4	It; itself	<u>Wona; anginawo</u>	It; I don't have it
Pronoun Class 2	27	.134	3	Them; themselves	<u>(Bona); nabo; yibo</u>	(Them); and them; it is them
Conjunction <i>angithi</i>	26	.129	6		<u>Angithi</u>	

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Verb root <i>thanda</i>	26	.129	6	Desire; like; love; be inclined; wind; plait	<i>Angilithandi</i>	I don't like it
Noun root <i>indlu</i>	26	.129	5	House; hut; room; dwelling place	<i>Indlu</i>	House
Verb root <i>phatha</i>	26	.129	5	Hold; handle; control; administer	<i>Ngiphethe</i>	I am holding
Verb root <i>vele</i>	26	.129	5	Do merely; do originally	<i>Vele</i>	
Conjunction <i>kanti</i>	25	.124	6	Just so; in fact; (intj) what of it; what if so; who can stop me	<i>Kanti</i>	
Presentative formative Position C	25	.124	6		<i>Nanguya; naliyana</i>	There he is; there it is
Verb root <i>thola</i>	25	.124	6	Find; get; adopt	<i>Ngisazokuthola</i>	I will still get you
Adjective root <i>hle</i>	25	.124	5	Good; beautiful; pretty	<i>Kahle</i>	Do well
Verb root <i>thenga</i>	25	.124	5	Buy	<i>Ukuthenga</i>	To buy
Verb root <i>khuluma</i>	25	.124	4	Talk; speak	<i>Into yokukhuluma</i>	A thing for talking
Adjective root <i>khulu</i>	24	.119	5	Large; great	<i>Omkhulu</i>	A big (person)
Noun root <i>imali</i>	24	.119	5	Money	<i>Imali</i>	Money

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Adjective root <i>ncane</i>	23	.114	6	Small; few; young	<i><u>Omncane</u></i>	A small (person)
Verb root <i>ima</i>	23	.114	6	Stand; stop	<i><u>Ima</u></i>	Stop
Verb root <i>phuma</i>	23	.114	6	Come out; go out; lose colour	<i><u>Bayaphuma</u></i>	They are exiting
Noun root <i>crayon</i>	23	.114	4	Crayon	<i><u>Ucrayoni</u></i>	Crayon
Pronoun Class 10	23	.114	3	It; itself	<i><u>(Zona); nazo</u></i>	(It); and it
Verbal extension Neutral	22	.109	6		<i><u>Kuyavuleka</u></i>	It is opening
Interjection <i>o</i>	22	.109	4		<i><u>O! (anibuke lona)</u></i>	
Noun root <i>imoto</i>	22	.109	4	Motor-car	<i><u>Imoto</u></i>	Car
Noun root <i>imndaba</i>	21	.104	6	Affair; topic for discussion; story	<i><u>Anginandaba</u></i>	I don't care
Verb root <i>vula</i>	21	.104	6	Open; commence	<i><u>Vula</u></i>	Open
Noun root <i>umama</i>	21	.104	5	My / our mother	<i><u>Umama</u></i>	Mother
Noun root <i>igama</i>	21	.104	4	Name; song; fame	<i><u>Igama</u></i>	Name
Noun root <i>ifoni</i>	21	.104	3	Phone	<i><u>Kunefoni</u></i>	There is a phone
Verb root <i>crayona</i>	21	.104	3	'The act of crayoning' c. Colouring	<i><u>Ngiyacrayona</u></i>	I am crayoning
Demonstrative relative <i>njani</i>	20	.099	6	Of what kind; of what sort	<i><u>Kunjani?</u></i>	What is it like
Verb root <i>gijima</i>	20	.099	6	Run; flow	<i><u>Gijima</u></i>	Run (imperative)

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Adverb root <i>lapho</i>	20	.099	5	There	<u>Laphoke</u>	There
Noun root <i>iso</i>	20	.099	5	Eye	<u>Ezamehlo</u>	They are for the eyes
Verbal extension; reciprocal	20	.099	5		<u>Uyasabisana</u>	He is scary
Locative formative <i>nga</i>	20	.099	4		<u>Ngapha</u>	This side
Noun root <i>umlungu</i>	20	.099	4	White person; European	<u>Umlungu</u>	White person
Reflexive formative	19	.094	6		<u>Ngiyazibhalela;</u>	I am writing for myself
Adverb <i>futhi</i>	19	.094	5	Again; once more; perpetually	<u>Futhi</u>	Again; and
Verb root <i>kipha</i>	19	.094	5	Take out; pull out	<u>Ngiyikhiphile</u>	I have taken it out
Noun root UMSIZI	19	.094	4	Helper; pencil	<u>Umsizi</u>	Pencil
Verb root <i>buya</i>	18	.089	6	Return; go back; turn inwards	<u>Ngiyabuya</u>	I am coming back
Noun root <i>umsindo</i>	18	.089	5	Noise	<u>Umsindo</u>	Noise
Verb root <i>ngena</i>	18	.089	5	Come in	<u>Bayangena</u>	They are entering
Noun prefix Class 2	17	.084	6		<u>Abantu</u>	People
Conjunction <i>kodwa</i>	17	.084	4	But	<u>Kodwa</u>	But
Interjection <i>eheh</i>	17	.084	4		<u>Eheh</u>	(Vocalization to indicate disagreement)

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Noun prefix Class 11	17	.084	3		<u>Unxantathu</u>	Triangle
Relative suffix formative	16	.079	5		<u>Afanayo</u>	That are the same
Adverb <i>manje</i>	16	.079	4	Now; at the present time	<u>Manje</u>	Now
Verb root <i>gqoka</i>	16	.079	3	Wear; be clothed	<u>Abaligqoki</u>	They do not wear it
Interjection <i>cha</i>	15	.074	6	No	<u>Cha</u>	No
Demonstrative relative <i>njalo</i>	15	.074	5	Like that	<u>Njalo</u>	like that/ always
Noun root <i>chips</i>	15	.074	5	Chips	<u>Amachips</u>	Chips
Noun root <i>ukudla</i>	15	.074	5	Food; eating	<u>Ukudla</u>	Food
Verb root <i>bamba</i>	15	.074	5	Catch; grasp; hold; overtake; take on (as seedling); delay; surprise one doing mischief	<u>Ngibambe</u>	Hold me/ while I held
Verb root <i>iwa</i>	15	.074	5	Fall	<u>Liwe</u>	It fell
Verb root <i>phila</i>	15	.074	5	Live; be in good health	<u>Siyaphila</u>	We are fine
Verb root <i>vala</i>	15	.074	5	Shut; close	<u>Soyalivala</u>	He/she is closing it now
Noun root <i>ikhekhe</i>	15	.074	4	Cake	<u>Ikhekhe</u>	Cake
Noun root <i>iphepha</i>	15	.074	4	Paper	<u>Iphepha</u>	Paper

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Noun root <i>ugogo</i>	15	.074	4	Grand-mother	<i>Ugogo</i>	Grandmother
Future tense formative <i>yo</i>	14	.070	5		<i>Bayothatha</i>	They are going to take
Interrogative formative <i>lani</i>	14	.070	5		<i>Ukethelelani?</i>	Why are you pouring on it
Noun root <i>isandla</i>	14	.070	5	Hand; hand-writing; assistant	<i>Izandla</i>	Hands
Adjective root <i>one</i>	14	.070	4	One	<i>One</i>	One
social <i>sorry</i>	14	.070	4	Sorry	<i>Sorry</i>	Sorry
Noun root <i>toilet</i>	14	.070	3	Toilet	<i>Etoilet</i>	Toilet
Verb root <i>fana</i>	13	.065	6	Be like; resemble	<i>Lifana</i>	It is like....
Potential formative	13	.065	5		<i>Ngingakushaya</i>	I could hit you
Verb root <i>biza</i>	13	.065	5	Call; be expensive; price; be luring	<i>Bayanibiza</i>	They are calling you
Verb root <i>cula</i>	13	.065	5	Sing	<i>Yokucula</i>	For singing
Verb root <i>fika</i>	13	.065	5	Come; arrive; reach	<i>Ufike</i>	You arrive...
Adjective root <i>bi</i>	13	.065	4	Ugly; bad; evil	<i>Kabi</i>	In a bad manner/ poorly
Noun root <i>class</i>	13	.065	4	Class	<i>Eklasini</i>	In Class
Verb root <i>boleka</i>	13	.065	4	Borrow; lend	<i>Awungiboleke</i>	Won't you lend me
Place name	13	.065	3		<i>OwasePN</i>	(Person) from PN <sup>e</sup>
Adverb root <i>laphaya</i>	12	.060	5	Yonder	<i>Laphaya</i>	Over there
Interjection <i>hhayi</i>	12	.060	5		<i>Hhayi</i>	(Vocalization to indicate disagreement)

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Adverb <i>namuhla</i>	12	.060	4	Today	<i>Namuhla</i>	Today
Interjection <i>ok</i>	12	.060	4	Ok	<i>Ok</i>	Ok
Verb root <i>bheka</i>	12	.060	4	Look; observe; go towards	<i>Ubheke</i>	While you look / he is going toward
Verb root <i>shesha</i>	12	.060	4	Make haste; be quick; glide along	<i>Shesha</i>	Hurry
Adverbial formative <i>le</i>	12	.060	3	Far away	<i>Le; ngalena</i>	Far away; that side far away
Adverb root <i>phansi</i>	11	.055	6	Beneath; below; down; lower end	<i>Phansi</i>	Down
Quantative root <i>nka</i>	11	.055	5	(All)	<i>Sonke</i>	All of us
Adjective root <i>five</i>	11	.055	4	Five	<i>Five</i>	Five
Interjection <i>hhawu</i>	11	.055	4		<i>Hhawu</i>	(Interjection to show surprise)
Remote past concordial formative	11	.055	4		<i>Ngangihamba</i>	I was going
Vocative <i>mani</i>	11	.055	4		<i>Mani</i>	(Interjection to add emphasis or indicate annoyance) .
Adjective root <i>bili</i>	11	.055	3	Two	<i>Mabili</i>	There are two
Verb root <i>saba</i>	11	.055	3	Fear; be afraid	<i>Uyasabisana</i>	He is scary
Verb root <i>washa</i>	11	.055	3	Do laundry work	<i>Siyawasha</i>	We do the laundry

## ZULU CORE VOCABULARY FOR AAC

Verb root <i>yekela</i>	11	.055	3	Leave off; let alone	<i><u>Muyekele</u></i>	Leave him
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*Note.* <sup>a</sup>The *Scholar's Zulu dictionary* (Dent & Nyembezi, 1995) was used to translate content formatives and words. <sup>b</sup>Relevant formative underlined. <sup>c</sup>Interjections could not always be translated. An approximate translation is given where possible. <sup>d</sup>Child name. <sup>e</sup>Place name. <sup>f</sup>Approximate translation.