

# Afrikaans First Additional Language (FAL) teachers should therefore thank the challenges that came with change

BY MARIETJIE LE ROUX AND THE WOEMABOEKE TEAM

I have been an Afrikaans First Additional Language teacher for the past 35 years (government and independent schools) and I can in all honesty say that I am still passionate about my subject.

**A**s head of department, it was my responsibility to keep my department inspired and my subject fun, meaningful and alive. The challenges of this have increased drastically over the past few years.

However, I firmly believe that this pressure has kept me creative. Being a tad dramatic at times, and dabbling with writing, a large part of my teaching methodology includes creative writing, dramatic presentations of literature and debating.

As an examiner for the Independent Examination Board (IEB), I was also involved in amending the Subject Assessment Guidelines for IEB Afrikaans FAL – a task that made me examine learning material and assessment requirements closely.

Afrikaans FAL teachers should therefore thank the challenges that came with change, as we have been forced to keep on reinventing our methods. It is only by reinvention that we will keep our subject alive and valid.

The team at Woemaboeké asked Marietjie le Roux to evaluate the Woema Grade 8 Online e-Course.

**W:** Why is the course material suitable for an Afrikaans FAL Grade 8 learner?

**M:** Content relates to Grade 8 learners' everyday life and is part of daily communication.

**W:** How does this course give learners more confidence to write Afrikaans FAL?

**M:** The course covers vocabulary and sentence construction – the two essential components of a written piece.

**W:** Would you say that this course was challenging or at the right level for Grade 8 Afrikaans FAL learners? Please motivate.

**M:** The course covers a variety of thinking skills and offers the right balance of manageability and challenge, therefore the learners' confidence is boosted by them managing most of the work easily but also being challenged to think at times.

**W:** Were you fairly assessed through different types of questions, i.e. quizzes, open ended questions, comprehension tests and revision? Can you elaborate how this will benefit learners?

**M:** Different types of questions are essential as not all learners think the same. Various types of questions also lead to continuous stimulation of thinking processes.

**W:** Woemaboeké's aim with this course was to help learners:

- Improve their Afrikaans as a FAL.
- Gain confidence in a second language.
- Revise their Afrikaans FAL.
- Prepare for examinations and tests.

Would you say this goal is achieved by the course?

**M:** Yes.

**W:** What are the one to three specific features about the course that helped learners practice their Afrikaans FAL?

**M:** Interactive, fun, educational.

**W:** After completing the Afrikaans Grade 8 Demo Course, would you recommend this to learners?

**M:** Yes.

For your free demonstration access to the Woema Grade 8 Online e-Course, visit: <https://store.it.si/ZA/book/demo-woema-grade-8-online-course/1158301>



Marietjie le Roux

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Mrs T van Wyk, H.O.D. Afrikaans, Northcliff High



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