

The word "**apartheid**" comes from the **Afrikaans** language, which is a version of Dutch spoken in South Africa. Here's a breakdown:

- "**Apart**": This part of the word means "separate" or "apart," reflecting the idea of being divided or kept away from each other.
- "**-heid**": This suffix in Afrikaans is equivalent to the English suffix "-ness" or "-hood," which turns an adjective or description into a noun. So, "**-heid**" means "state of being" or "condition."

Together, **apartheid** means "the state of being separate" or "the condition of separation."

In historical context, **apartheid** was a system of racial segregation and discrimination enforced by the government of South Africa between 1948 and the early 1990s. Under apartheid, people were divided into racial groups and forced to live separately, with white people receiving privileges and rights that were denied to non-white people, particularly Black South Africans. It was a policy of enforced separation in many aspects of life, including education, healthcare, and even where people could live and work.

The term is now used globally to refer to any system or practice of segregation or discrimination based on race or ethnicity.