**Diacritics**

Spoken languages have many more sounds than there are letters in the alphabet. Diacritics are marks (signs) above or below letters that indicate these sounds. If the diacritic is left out, the pronunciation or meaning of the word would be different, and the spelling would also be incorrect.

Examples in different languages:

**English:**  pate (spread made of fine meat) pate (head)

ore (currency) ore (mineral)

**Afrikaans:** voel (bird) voel (feel)

appel (appeal) appel (apple)

**Sepedi:** Mosupologo (Monday)