**[Selfie – word of the year](http://www.e4africa.co.za/?p=4752" \o "Selfie – word of the year)**

**Monday, December 9th, 2013 |** [**trends**](http://www.e4africa.co.za/?cat=18) **| Comments Off**

It was recently [announced](http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/culture/2013/11/selfie-word-of-the-year.html) that the word of the year 2013 is ***selfie***.

What is a selfie?  It is defined by the Oxford Dictionary Online as:

***… a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website.***

We’ve all seen people taking selfies.  A picture is needed to complete a profile for a social medium or blog or other online engagement, and the easiest way to do so is to turn your cell phone around and snap.

The word selfie was first used in 2002 in an Australian online forum, and has steadily gained popularity until it was so widely used (both the word and the action) that it became word of the year in 2013.

[](http://www.e4africa.co.za/?attachment_id=4753)

A selfie in progress

It is wonderful how language evolves – new words are born every day and ubiquitous technology is accelerating the process.  Now that it’s the word of the year, teachers will have to accept selfie when a learner uses it in an essay.

I wonder when LOL and b4 will gain the same acceptance.

Tags: [cell phones](http://www.e4africa.co.za/?tag=cell-phones), [selfie](http://www.e4africa.co.za/?tag=selfie)