

**Kinyarwanda** (also known as Igifumbira) Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Congo

**Kirundi** (also known as Rundi) Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Congo

The languages are so similar that the following information, written for Kinyarwanda, can apply to both.

1. Kinyarwanda only has open syllables, meaning the syllables end with vowels.

Because of this, a speaker might drop the final consonant on a word or they might add an extra vowel sound to a word that ends in a consonant. They also might add vowels in the middle of a word that has consonants next to each other.

If they are dropping final consonants, make a list of short words that end in a consonant and rhyme. Use vowels that are easy for them like ee, ay, and oh ([i e o]). Nasals seem to be easier, so start with words that end in m or n. Then move on to other voiced consonants like d and b.

2. English consonant sounds that are not in Kinyarwanda:

[θ]: This is the unvoiced th sound, the sound in think and thin.

[ð]: This is the voiced th sound, the sound in the and that.

[ɹ]: This is the English r sound.

[dʒ]: This is the sound in judge.

[l]: The l sound.

Refer to separate documents for tips on pronouncing these sounds. A Kinyarwanda speaker might also mix up the r and l sounds.

3. English vowel sounds that are not in Kinyarwanda:

[ɪ]: This is the short i, the sound in bit and kid.

[ɛ]: This is the short e sound in egg and says.

[æ]: This is the short a, the sound in bat and cad.

[ʊ]: This is the sound in put and could.

[ʌ]: This is the sound in but and oven.

[ɔ]: This is the sound in bought and caught.

[ə]: This is the sound in uh and the. It is a very common sound in English.

When helping a student learn a new vowel sound, model the sound and note two things: how far open the mouth is and the shape of the lips. For some vowels, like ʊ, the lips are rounded. To

make the ɪ sound (bit), the student can make the e (late) and then bring the jaw closer together until the ɪ is heard. For the æ sound, make the e (late) sound and then open the lips up a bit farther. For all vowel practice, take some time doing listening activities to help the student hear the difference between vowels.

Kinyarwanda-English translator app (Rwanda, Congo)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thewebvalue.kinyarwanda.english&hl=en>