

# Garifuna Dictionary

The Garifuna language reflects the unique origin of its people and draws its words from many different sources. Reflecting the origins of the Garinagu from amongst the Kalinago people, approximately 45% of the words of the language come from the Arawak tongue, which was spoken by the wives of Kalinago following the conquest of the Arawaks by the Caribs and the latter taking the former's women as their wives. The Carib language itself, spoken by Kalinago men, comprises about 25% of the language. Other influences can be found from European languages, namely French (15%), English (10%) and Spanish (5%), reflecting the cultures that the Garinagu interacted with in the Caribbean.

Only about five words in the language are believed to be African in origin, including 'mutu' (person) and 'pinda' (peanut), which come from the Bantu languages spoken throughout much of the continent. Instead, the real African influence in Garifuna is in how words are pronounced. This means that if a word was pronounced with a K or C in the original language, it became a G in Garifuna. Words with P become B and words with T are pronounced with a D.

Garinagu is a gendered language, and like French and Spanish certain words are either Masculine or Feminine. In addition, in the same way that the men and women of the Kalinago spoke two different languages, there are different words for men and women to call the same thing.

## Useful phrases

## Numbers

Hello – Maburiga	1.	Aban	23	Wein Ürüwa
Goodbye – Ayóu	2.	Byama	24.	
Good morning - Buíti binafi	3.	Ürüwa	25.	Wein Seingü
Good afternoon - Buíti ranbá weyu	4.	Gádürü/Gadu	26.	Wein Sisi
Good evening - Buíti ranbá weyu	5.	Seingü	27.	Wein Sedu
Good night - Buiti guñoun	6.	Sisi	28.	Wein Widü
Welcome - Buiti Achüluruni	7.	Sedu	29.	Wein Nefu
How are you? – Ida biangi?	8.	Wedu/Widü		
My name is ... - ... niri bai	9.	Nefu	30.	Darandi
I'm from ... - ... wa kek	10.	Disi	40.	Biama Wein
What is your name? – Ka biri?	11.	Unsu	50.	Dimi San
	12.	Dusu	60.	Ürüwa Wein
Please - Fulesi	13.	Tareisi	70.	Ürüwa Wein
Thank you - seremei	14.	Katorusu		Disi
You're welcome - Úwati mégeiti	15.	Keinsi	75.	Ürüwa Wein
Yes – Ayi	16.	Disisi		Keinsi
No - Ino	17.	Disi sedü	80.	Gádürü Wein
	18.	Disi widü	90.	Gádürü Wein
I don't understand – Úwati gunfarándaná	19.	Disi nefu		Disi
Where do you live? – Halia baganawa?			95.	Gádürü Wein
What day is today? – Ka weyu uguñe?	20.	Wein		Keinsi
What time is it? – Ka ora?	21.	Wein Aban	100.	San
	22.	Wein Biama	1,000	Mílu

**Parts of the body**

head - ichüügü  
 hair - idiburi  
 ear - arigai  
 eye - agu  
 nose - igiri  
 mouth - iuma  
 tooth - ari  
 hand - uhabu  
 arm - arüna  
 heart - anigi

**Days of the week**

Monday - Leindi  
 Tuesday - Luagu Biamadrink - ata  
 Wednesday - Luagua Ürüwa  
 Thursday - Luagu Gádürü  
 Friday - Wáandaradi  
 Saturday - Samudi  
 Sunday - Dimaasu

**Verbs**

eat - aiga  
 think - aritagua  
 drink - ata  
 give - ichiga  
 see - ariha  
 cook - abougua  
 hear - aganba  
 read - aliha  
 smell - irimica  
 sleep - arumuga  
 swim - afuliha  
 fly - ahamara  
 walk - aibuga  
 say - erenga  
 sing - eremuha

**Nouns**

Man - Eyeri  
 Woman - Hiñanru  
 Dog - Aunli  
 Sun - Weyu  
 Moon - Kati  
 Water - Duna  
 Rain - Húya  
 Fire - watu  
 cassava - ereba  
 turtle - Gadaru  
 Book - liburu

belt - beliti  
 sure - choru  
 gown - gounu  
 shirt - simisi  
 matches - matchi  
 flour - fluaru  
 cup - copu  
 purse - posu  
 Mosquito - Marin  
 Chicken - Gayu  
 Church - Ligilisi

**Different words used by men and women**

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
I	au	nuguya
you	amuru	buguya
Come here	Ahu ye	Higabu nu
man	wuguri	iyeri
woman	wuri	hinyaru
path	uma	emeri
Older brother	Ibugañaü	ati

**Family**

Mother - Úguchuru  
 Father - Úguchili  
 Nisanimy - Son/daughter  
 Sister - Itu  
 Brother - Ibiri  
 First born child - Igiramaü  
 Middle child - Iranaguaü  
 Last-born child - Adarahóuni  
 Younger sister - Amuleluaü  
 Younger brother - Amúleñei  
 Grandmother - Agütü  
 Grandfather - Áruguti  
 Uncle - Iáwüritei  
 Cousin - Iduhei  
 Grandson/daughter - Ibari  
 Niece - Ibasei  
 Nephew - Ibawanari  
 Spouse - Úmari

**Garifuna Alphabet**

A	Garünati	N	Na
B	Ba	Ñ	Ña
Ch	Cha	O	Gararati
D	Da	P	Pa
E	Gayumati	R	Ra
F	Fa	S	Sa
H	Ha	T	Ta
I	Gágriti	U	Máguti
K	Ka	Ü	Gáguti
L	La	W	Wa
M	Ma	Y	Ya