

RUFUMBIRA WRITING RULES

by

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Approved by the

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1. INTRODUCTION

This book seeks to address many things about writing Rufumbira that the Rufumbira orthography guide has omitted. Since some people may not have that guide, included here is everything which concerns how to write the Rufumbira language. It is written in English because it is aimed at educators who are well qualified to understand it.

This is not a grammar book. Therefore the function of many grammatical words such as preposition, conjunction etc. are not explained in this book. For a better understanding of those terms, see "A Comprehensive Guide to Rufumbira Grammar" written by Doris Sauder and Rev. Canon E. Muruta.

From my work with the Rufumbira instructors of the Tujijuuke adult literacy programme and also from classroom situations, I have observed some of the problems that both teachers and students alike have had in writing Rufumbira. This book specifically gives guidance, backed up by many examples, on how to overcome these problems,.

Learning these writing rules will greatly help one to know when to double a vowel, when a vowel automatically is dropped, when to join two parts to form one word or when they are two separate words.

2. TONE

By tone we mean how high or how low you put your voice when saying a word. Tone is not written in the present Rufumbira orthography which causes some problems in reading recent past tense and distant past tense. In Rufumbira there are two tones, high and low. Some words differ only by tone. In the examples below, the first column has low tones and the second high tones. For purposes of illustration in this book we are writing the mark ´ over the syllable which is high.

inda "stomach"
umuswa "ignorant person"
kurenga "to measure"

índa "louse"
umúswa "termite"
kurénga "to go beyond"

Tone need not be written on the above examples. However, it would be good to learn to mark the distant past tense with a high tone mark to distinguish it from recent past.

Recent Past: Nari mu murima.
"I was in the garden." (today)

Distant Past: Nári mu murima.
"I was in the garden." (yesterday)

Ntitwóhereje abaana baacu ku ishuuli.
"We didn't send our children to school."

3. ALPHABET

The Rufumbira alphabet is as follows:

a b c d e f g h i j k l* m n o p r s t u v w y z

Also forming part of the alphabet are four other sounds which are written with two letters. These are:

ny, pf, sh, ts

* Note that the letter l is to be used only in foreign words like poliisi or in names such as Pawulo. Although some people like to write l when next to i, for example aliko, this is not correct. It should be ariko. Rufumbira is different from Kinyarwanda and even they, who used to write the letter l, have changed back to l when it comes next to the letter i.

4. CONSONANTS

| <u>Consonant</u> | <u>Rufumbira</u> | <u>English</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| b | ib <u>a</u> ba | feather |
| c | ic <u>u</u> mi | ten |
| d | du <u>d</u> o | type of greens |
| f | if <u>u</u> | flour |
| g | ig <u>i</u> | egg |
| h | ah <u>a</u> | here |
| j | ij <u>u</u> ru | sky |
| k | uk <u>u</u> bok <u>o</u> | arm |
| l* | ishu <u>u</u> li | school |
| m | ma <u>a</u> ma | mama |
| n | no <u>o</u> ne | so |
| ny (ɲ) | uru <u>n</u> ya <u>n</u> ya | tomato |
| p | ipik <u>i</u> pik <u>i</u> | motorcycle |
| pf | gup <u>f</u> a | to die |
| r | umur <u>i</u> ro | fire |
| s | is <u>i</u> | earth/world |
| sh | gush <u>a</u> aka | to look for |
| t | it <u>a</u> ara | lamp |
| ts | koot <u>s</u> a | burn |
| v | iy <u>u</u> | ash |
| w | wa <u>a</u> we | your |
| y | oy <u>a</u> | no |
| z | iz <u>i</u> na | name |

5. VOWELS

5.1 Five vowel system

The five vowels in Rufumbira are: a, e, i, o, u.

5.2 Vowel Length

Each vowel can be long or short as seen in the following two columns.

short: a, e, i, o, u

long: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| kub <u>a</u> za "to ask" | kuba <u>aa</u> za "to plane" |
| guh <u>a</u> ta "to force" | guha <u>aa</u> ta "to peel" |
| gut <u>e</u> ra "to slip off" | gute <u>ee</u> ra "to plant" |
| umuse <u>e</u> ke "drinking straw" | umuse <u>ee</u> ke "person without children" |
| gus <u>i</u> ga "to leave" | gusi <u>ii</u> ga "to rub/smear" |
| kub <u>i</u> ka "to crow" | kubi <u>ii</u> ka "to hold safely" |
| guh <u>o</u> ra "be silent" | guho <u>oo</u> ra "to avenge" |
| gut <u>u</u> ra "to leak" | gut <u>uu</u> ra "to live" |
| isu <u>u</u> ka "hoe" | isu <u>uu</u> ka "bed sheet" |

Note: When people hear a high tone on a vowel, they often think it is a double vowel. Check to see if it is just high, but not double. For example:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| umuh <u>a</u> re | the vowel in <u>ha</u> is high but not long |
| ih <u>e</u> ne | the vowel in <u>he</u> is high but not long |
| am <u>a</u> raso | the vowel in <u>ma</u> is high but not long |

Note: When dividing words into syllables, the division is always made after a vowel:

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| umugore | u mu go re |
| icyijima | i cyi ji ma |

But if there is a double vowel in the word, that double vowel is kept together when dividing the word into syllables.

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| maama | maa ma |
| guhaata | gu haa ta |
| imibeereho | i mi bee re ho |

5.3 Conditioned long vowels

There are three instances where certain consonants usually cause a vowel to be said long. When this happens, the present orthography writes them as a single vowel. Lengthening of the vowel occurs in the centre of a word, not in the first syllable or

in the last. This lengthening of the vowel sound happens in the following circumstances:

5.3.1 before n or m plus another consonant

These complex consonants beginning with either an m or an n are immediately followed by another consonant, for example: mb, mf, mp, mv, nd, ng, nj, nk, ns, nsh, nt, nz.

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-----|--|
| mb | agati <u>m</u> ba "net" | mf | si <u>m</u> fite "I don't have" |
| mv | imp <u>a</u> mvu "reason" | mp | Yarak <u>i</u> mpaaye. "He gave it to me." |
| nd | kug <u>e</u> nda "walk" | ng | guh <u>o</u> nga "bribe" |
| nj | inyi <u>n</u> jiza "income" | nk | ubwo <u>n</u> ko "brains" |
| ns | konsa "breastfeed" | nsh | ubwinshi "plural" |
| nt | ise <u>n</u> te "money" | nz | urufu <u>n</u> zo "swamp" |

However there is no double vowel heard if any of the above consonants follow a first syllable which begins with a vowel.

| | |
|--------|------------|
| inka | "cow" |
| invura | "rain" |
| imbeba | "rat" |
| inzovu | "elephant" |

5.3.2. after a consonant followed by the letter y

Consonants followed immediately by the letter y such as by, cy, jy, my, py, ry, sy, shy, ty almost always causes a doubling of the following vowel if the syllable is at the beginning or middle of the word. These double vowels are written as a single vowel.

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| ib <u>y</u> ari | "nests" |
| cy <u>a</u> ne | "much/a lot" |
| kuj <u>y</u> ana | "to take" |
| im <u>y</u> aka | "years" |
| gup <u>y</u> atura | "to give a quick slap" |
| iry <u>o</u> ya | "feather" |
| gus <u>y</u> a | "to grind" |
| gush <u>y</u> a | "be ripe/be burnt" |
| gut <u>y</u> ara | "be sharp" |

Note that when saying a word containing by, the following vowel is sometimes short, for example, kubyina "to dance". This is especially true of words with shy in them, for example kwishyura "pay a debt", gushyigikira "to support", igishyitse "accurate", igishyute "boil" kubeeshyera "falsely accuse" etc.

Exception: The letter ny is not like the above consonants. Words with ny in them may be written with either a long or a short vowel before or after ny.

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| umugambaanyi | "betrayer" |
| umuhinyuzi | "criticizer" |
| umuunyu | "salt" |
| urunyaanya | "tomato" |

5.3.3. after a consonant followed by the letter w

A consonant followed immediately by the letter w almost always causes the following vowel to be long unless it occurs in the last syllable. Write only one vowel.

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| ubwoba | "fear" |
| kugwagwana | "to stagger" |
| umwana | "child" |
| umuswa | "termite" |
| kubabazwa | "be saddened" |

Summary of when long vowels are not written.

Capital C stands for any consonant and the line shows where a double vowel should not be written.

1. ___nC kugenda
 ___mC umusambi
2. Cy ___ imyaka
3. Cw___ ubwoba

Exception: ny can have either single or double vowels before or after it as in urunyaanya and akanyamasyo

5.4 Vowel lengthening before the verb zi

The verb zi always causes a lengthening of the vowel in plural pronouns:

| <u>Singular</u> | <u>Plural</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|
| nzi | tuuzi |
| uzi | muuzi |
| azi | baazi |

Also there is a double vowel in object infixes (him, it etc.) and negative ta when followed by the verb zi.

Ndamuuzi neeza kukurusha. "I know him better than you do."
Niiba ari bwemere, sim**bi**zi. "If he will accept, I don't know."
Yambwiye ko ataazi igisubizo. "He told me he did not know the answer."

5.5 Dropping of vowels

There are a number of words which cause the initial vowel of the next word to drop. In the examples below, an apostrophe is never used for the dropped vowel. See section 5.6 below for the use of an apostrophe.

The following section from 5.5.1 to 5.5.6 indicates which Rufumbira words cause the first vowel to drop from the next word.

5.5.1 Demonstratives--all the different forms of "this, that, these, those" (uyu, uwo, uno, uriya, urya, waa ...)

Iri gi riraboze. "This egg is rotten."

Note: When a demonstrative word ends with the same vowel as the next word, there is often confusion as to which vowel drops. If you remember the rule that the word following the demonstrative is always the one where the vowel drops, then writing it correctly will be easy. The example below shows that the i from imisozi drops.

Iyi misozi ni mireemire cyane. "These hills are very high."

5.5.2 **Prepositions mu and ku, muri, and kuri**

Uze ku mugorooba. "Come in the evening."

Note: When muri and kuri are followed by a demonstrative word, the demonstrative word does not lose its initial vowel but the word following the demonstrative does.

Ba wihangaanye dukore kuri iyo ngoorane.
"Be patient while we work on that problem."

5.5.3 **ntaa**

Ntaa muunyu dufite. "We have no salt."

5.5.4 **compound words**

igisubiranyuma "backwards"
from gusubira "to return" and inyuma "behind"

5.5.5 **-ndi "another"** (All the various forms of -ndi)

Tema ikindi giti. "Cut another tree."

Naboonye undi musambi uyu muni. "I saw another Crested Crane today."

5.5.6 **-he "which"** (All the various forms of -he)

Ni uwuhe mugabo? "Which man?" (from among a group)

Ni irihhe jisho rikubabaza? "Which eye hurts?"

5.5.7 **ki** (which kind of)

Ki causes the first vowel of the noun preceding it to drop out.

Ni gitabo ki naagura? "Which book should I buy?"

5.6 **Use of the Apostrophe for a dropped vowel**

The apostrophe sign should be used very little. Basically, it is used for the many different forms of the word "of", for the associative words which follow prepositions, for na and for nka:

Ukuboko k'umukoobwa kuravunitse.
"The girl's arm is broken."

Yahagaze iruhande rw'igitanda.
"She stood beside the bed."

Mariya n'abaana be bari Kampala.
"Mary and her children are in Kampala."

Yiiruka cyane nk'injangwe.
"He runs fast like a cat."

6 WORD BOUNDARIES

6.1 Introduction

In rapid speech, words tend to be spoken together without any pause. As a consequence, writers sometimes join words that should not be joined. In Rufumbira there is often a loss of a vowel on the first word if it ends in a vowel and the next word begins with a vowel. For example:

| | | |
|----------------|------------|-----------|
| inka imwe | is said as | inkimwe |
| Ni uwuuhe? | is said as | nuwuuhe |
| Umeze ute? | is said as | omezute |
| Yari afite ... | is said as | yaraafite |

A word such as ngo "that" changes to the sound ngw before a word beginning with a vowel. This word should always be written ngo.

Ugize ngo iki? (said as ngw iki) "What did you say?"

Yaguze inka kugira ngo abone amata. (said as ngw abone)
"He bought a cow in order to have milk."

Although these words are joined together in fast speech, they should be written as they are said in slow speech. The reason

for this is so that the image of a word always remains the same for the new reader. Readers then need to be taught to read the same way that they speak in normal speech.

There are times when two words are next to each other and one has an influence on the other one. For example when you say mu nzu, you can hear an extra vowel, muu nzu. This doubling is caused by the nz in the next word. When there is lengthening of the vowel across word boundaries like this, it is not written. Instead we maintain the usual spelling of the words, that is, mu nzu.

Let's look at how to determine word boundaries and whether you have two separate independent words or if you have an affix which must be bound to another word.

6.2 Affixes

What is an affix? An affix is a letter or a group of letters which are added often to the beginning or end of a word to change its meaning. In English, when the affix s is added to dog, the result is dogs. The s affix creates the meaning of plural. Affixes are divided into three different groups: prefix, infix and suffix. A prefix comes at the beginning of a word (umugabo "man"), an infix usually comes in the middle before the root (Narabafashije. "I helped them), and a suffix comes at the end of a word (Bariicaye. "They are sitting down"). These are always joined to the verb or noun as in the examples above.

6.2.1 Noun Class prefixes

The 16 noun class prefixes are joined to the noun stem and the two parts are written as one word. A few examples follow below:

Class 1 umu- joins to the stem -gore to form umugore

Class 2 aba- joins to the stem -sazi to form abasazi

Class 7 iki- joins to the stem -bazo to form ikibazo

Class 8 ibi- joins to the stem -dooro to form ibidooro

6.2.2 **Verb Affixes**

There are many different verb affixes which show the verb tense, aspect or subject agreement markers. These become part of the verb and are written as one word. A few examples follow:

- 1) incompletive aspect marker -a on the verb
Abaana batiinya ababyeyi. "The children fear their parents."
- 2) future tense
Uzaakora iki ejo? "What will you do tomorrow?"
- 3) object infix
Yadusabye isente. "He asked us for money."
- 4) subject agreement marker
Ibitabo byawe biri ku meeza. "Your books are on the table."
- 5) "self" infix
Yarijikebye. "She cut herself."

Note: Verbs which end in -nya such as gushidiikanya, guteeranya, kuriganya may have the past tense ending in either -nije or -nyije. It is probably better to choose the simpler form -nije when writing.

6.2.3 **Negative Affixes**

There are three negative affixes for verbs in Rufumbira: si, nti- and -ta- which are written as prefixes on the verb.

"Sindaakora uyu murimo. "I have not yet done this work."

Note: si is written separately when it comes before a noun and the sentence has no other verb as in:

Aba baana si abiiga. "These children are not students."
Si imeeri, ni ubwato. "It is not a ship. It is a boat."

Note that si, like the verb ni, is always written in its full form even when it is followed by another vowel. In the above example, si abiiga sounds like sabiiga. New readers should be taught to read it the way it is spoken.

The prefix nti- always is the first part of the verb in a negative sentence.

Ntibari mu murima. "They are not in the garden."

Ntimuri gushobya. "You (pl.) are not making a mistake."

However, frequently nti- comes before a vowel. Then the i in nti- changes to that of the following vowel and that vowel is doubled:

Peetero ntaari mu mbuga. "Peter is not in the compound."

Ntuurigukora neeza. "You are not working well."

The negative prefix -ta- is always joined to the verb.

Imirima itarimo ikiraare, yeera byinshi.

"Gardens, which are not full of weeds, produce much."

6.2.4 Locative suffixes mo, ho, yo

The locative suffixes mo, ho and yo which correspond to the prepositions mu, ku, and i, are joined to the end of the verb. However note in the following first sentence that there is no doubling of the vowel after the consonant gw nor is there lengthening after iy in the third example.

mo Iki cyoba abaana babaasha kukigwamo.

"This hole, the children can fall into it."

ho Isahaane ziri ku meeza? Yee, ziriho.

"Are the plates on the table? Yes, they are there."

yo Uzaajya Kampala? Yee, nzaajyayo.

"Will you go to Kampala? Yes, I will go there."

6.2.5 The prefix ni

There are certain times when the prefix ni is joined to another word. Sometimes it is joined to a noun, sometimes to a verb when meaning "if", sometimes to a verb when giving a command or when giving a good wish to someone. Let's look at all four types.

1) Ni is joined to three nouns resulting in the meaning "in".

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| nijoro | "in the night" |
| nimugorooba | "in the evening" |
| nimunsi | "in the afternoon" |

2) Although niiba is the general word meaning "if", sometimes the shortened form ni is joined directly to a verb. It always comes at the beginning of the word and is followed by the subject agreement prefix, then the verb root.

Abaana nibaba babi, ubakubite.
"If the children are bad, spank them."

Niigwa, sindi bugende.
"If it rains, I will not go."

Note that when ni is followed by a subject agreement prefix, the vowel in ni changes to that of the following subject agreement prefix.

Nuujya imbere abantu neeza, uzoogera.
"If you lead your community well, you will be famous."

Peetero naakora kiriiya, uri bube umbwira.
"If Peter does that, you will tell me."

3) Ni is sometimes used to form a polite command in the second person plural (you). It is joined to the verb.

Nimujye mu rugo. "Go home."
Mwese nimwicare haasi. "You (pl.) sit down."

4) Ni is also used when wishing a person good. In this case, it is also joined to the verb.

Ni mugire abaana benshi. "May you have many children."
Ni mushike ibigezo byanyu. "May you pass your exam."

6.3 Independent Words

Independent words can stand by themselves and are not attached to any other word. All of the following words in section 6 are independent words.

6.3.1 Immediate future tense

An alternative form of the immediate future tense is composed of the verb ri followed by another verb beginning with bu of Class 14. The form of the verb beginning with bu is written separately from the first verb.

Ndeeba ko batari buuze uyu muni.
"I see that they are not coming today."

Atekereza ko ari bugende.
"He thinks that he will leave."

Note that bu becomes bw in front of another vowel.

Niiba ari bwemere, simbiizi.
"If he will accept, I don't know."

6.3.2 Present tense ri plus infinitive

The present tense for action verbs in Rufumbira is quite different from Kinyarwanda which uses the prefix -ra- joined to the verb stem. Rufumbira makes use of two verbs, the copula verb ri "is" plus the full verb rather than a verb stem. For this reason, it must not be joined to the verb ri but should be written as two words. This is similar to English where two verbs are used in the present tense, for example, "The baby is crying."

Bari guteguura umurima. "They are preparing a garden."
Inkoko zoose ziri gukokoza. "All the chickens are clucking."

Sometimes the verb indicates a state rather than an action. Then the prefix ra occurs plus just the stem of the verb. In this case, it is written as one word.

Ubusongero bwose buratura.
"All the roof peaks are leaking."

Yaa mirima irareebeka neeza.
"The other gardens are looking well."

6.3.3 Auxiliaries

Verb auxiliaries are written separately from the main verb.

Nari mfite inyundo ariko narayitaaye.
"I had a hammer but I lost it."

Tuzaaba turi i Kampala ukwezi gutaaha.
"We will be in Kampala next month."

Twari twahoze dutegereje kumara isaawa atari yaaza.
"We had been waiting for an hour before he came."

6.3.4 Series of Verbs

Rufumbira differs from English in that there is frequently one verb following another without a connecting conjunction.

Maheereere ahagurutse yiihuuta asanga Mirindi ahagaze iruhande rw'umujuura.
"Maheereere woke up quickly, and found Mirindi standing beside the thief."

Each verb is written separately since each begins with a subject agreement prefix attached to a verb stem.

6.3.5 Prepositions mu, ku and i

The prepositions mu, ku and i are always separate words. Many writers join these words to the nouns which follow but that is incorrect. For example they write murugo as one word. The correct way is to write two words, mu rugo.

Do not confuse the preposition mu and the noun class prefix mu which is always joined to the noun as in umugore.

The preposition ku sounds different when it is next to Class 5 and some Class 9 words beginning with i. These class 5 and 9 nouns do not lose their initial vowel like other classes do next to ku. Instead there is a change in sound with the u changing to w next to the vowel i.

| | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| mu ikanisa | sounds like | mwikanisa |
| mu icupa | sounds like | mwicupa |

Because it is better for a word to be spelled the same all the time, in the above cases, we continue to write ku and teach that the u in ku changes to a w sound when next to the vowel i.

The preposition i, although very small, is a word all by itself and is written separately.

Tuzaaba turi i Kampala ukwezi gutaaha.
"We will be in Kampala next month."

6.3.6 Preposition/Conjunction na (with/and/by)

The word na meaning "with/and/by" is an independent word. It is shortened to n' when the following word begins with a vowel.

Yahambiiriye umujuura n'umurunga.
"He tied the thief with a rope."

Imyaka iri kurimburwa n'urubura.
"The crops are being destroyed by hail."

Very few words in Rufumbira begin with the letter n. When you hear a word beginning with the letter n, ask yourself whether the underlying word is really na or if it is ni. If it is na, it can be written as n'.

6.3.7 Pronouns

Pronouns are separate words except for a few instances which will be mentioned below under 6.2.3.7.

6.3.7.1 **Pronouns as separate words**

Personal pronouns such as njye, wowe, bo, we and mwe are independent words often used only for emphasis. These are not joined to the verb.

Wowe ugiiye gusohoza?
"You are going to get married?"

Pronouns such as uwa "the one of" are separate words.

Uyu mupiira ni uwa nde?
"Whose ball is this?" (This ball is the one of who?)

Also words such as "all", "both" and "alone" in all their various forms are separate words.

Abagore boose bagiiye guhinga uyu muni.
"All the women went to dig today."

Amazu yombi ni mashya.
"Both houses are new."

We weenyine yaraturugiyeye.
"He alone spoke up for us."

All the demonstrative pronouns (this, that, these, those) are separate words. The various forms of these pronouns are too numerous to list here. A few examples follow:

Uyu mugore ni mugufi. "This woman is short."
Uriiya mukozi ariiba. "That worker steals."

Kuri waa mugezi amaazi ni menshi.
"At the other well, water is plenty."

Bano bagore ni ababeeshyi.
"These particular women are liars."

The various pronoun forms for -ndi "another", and -he "which", are independent words.

Nzaajyayo ikindi gihe.
"I will go there another time."

Ni ikiihe gitambaro watooranije?
"Which materials did you choose?"

6.3.7.2 Pronouns joined to another word

In forming a possessive type pronoun like "my" or "mine", two words are combined. These two words are the associative word "of" and a pronoun. The examples below show the joining of ya and njye to form yanjye "my" and rwa and we to form "yours".

Ingurube yanjye imaze gupfa. "My pig just died."
Ni uruuhu rusokozo rwawe? "Which comb is yours?"
Ibi bitabo ni ibyabo. "These books are theirs."

Note that for "his", the associative waa and the pronoun -e combine to form the word we "his".

Pawulo ari kugurira umugore we ibintu.
"Paul is buying things for his wife."

Another word which often joins with pronouns is the word na "with/and". Below we see na joined to njye to form nanjye.

Yohaana nanjye turi mu nzira tujya Kabale.
"John and I are on the way to Kabale."

With the first and second person pronouns, na- is lengthened but for all the other classes it remains a single vowel. The present orthography does not allow a double vowel before nj.

| | | | |
|--------|------------------|------|-------------|
| nanjye | "I also" | nawe | "with him" |
| naatwe | "we also" | nabo | "with them" |
| naawe | "with you (sg.)" | | |
| naamwe | "with you (pl.)" | | |

6.3.8 Copula Verb ni

The verb ni "is/are" is usually written as a separate word even though in speaking you join it to the next word if that word begins with a vowel.

Izina rye ni Yohaana. "His name is John."

Yohaana ni umwigiisha. (pronounced as nuumwigiisha.)

"John is a teacher."

There are a few times when ni is joined to another word as we have seen in section 6.2.5 above.

6.3.9 Adjectives

Adjectives are written as separate words. They are not joined to the nouns they modify but they take the same prefix as the noun.

ubutunguru buke

"a few onions"

umwenda mwiza

"beautiful cloth"

ibintu bibi

"bad things"

6.3.10 Conjunctions

Conjunctions join words or phrases. Some examples are kandi, ariko, ko, noone. These are always independent words.

There are some conjunctions which are a problem in knowing how to write them. Some are written as two words such as nk'aho, nk'ubwo. Here are a few of these problematic words:

ahuubwo "rather"

Aho kuba intwari ahuubwo yabaaye ikibwari.

"He was a coward instead of being brave."

nabwo "even, and again"

Ubu butegetsi nabwo buraturuhije.

"This leadership, even it tires us."

nuubwo "even if/even though"

Turagenda nuubwo imvura iraba irikugwa.
"We are going even if it is raining."

n'ubwo "with that"

Reka guteeranya ayo masaka n'ubwo buro.
"Don't mix that sorghum with that of millet."

nk'ubwo "like that"

Afite ubutaama nk'ubwo yagiraga.
"He has small sheep like that he used to have."

nk'aho "as if"

Iriiya nzu ireebeka nk'aho igiye kugwa.
"That house looks like it is going to fall down."

nk'uko "like how"

Uyu munsu ntuukonje nk'uko wari ejo.
"It isn't as cold today as it was yesterday."

nuuko "so then"

Bambwiye ibintu bibi nuuko ngenda vuba.
"They said bad things to me so then I quickly left."

kubwo "by means of"

Yaboonye izo sente kubwo kwiba.
"He got that money by stealing."

6.3.11 Family relationships

There are many different terms describing family relationships. These are separate words, for example:

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| maama waacu | "my aunt" |
| mwene maama | "my brother" |
| mukaa daata | "wife of my father" |

But don't be confused with the following which are suffixes and are added to the noun. These suffixes are:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| -kuru "preceding generation" | nyogokuru "grandmother" |
| -kuruza "back two generations" | nyogokuruza "great grandmother" |
| -senge "father's side" | nyirasenge "his maternal aunt" |
| -rume "maternal uncle" | maarume "my maternal uncle" |
| -bukwe "in-laws" | seebukwe "his father-in- law" |
| -buja "servant" | daatabuja "my boss" |

7. QUESTIONS

Question words are written as separate words.

Urashaaka kurya iki? "What do you want to eat?"

Ari he? "Where is he?"

Kuki uri kurira? "Why are you crying?"

Urashaaka nde? "Who are you looking for?"

Azaagenda ryari? "When will he leave?"

Ufite inka zingaaha? "How many cows do you have?"

Umeze ute? "How are you?"

Ni abaaha baateeye amabuye? "Which ones (children) threw stones?"

Note that the question word ki "what type of" causes the noun questioned to lose its initial vowel.

Iyi hene ni iya bwoko ki? "What type of goat is this?"

Iki ni giti ki? "What kind of tree is this?"

8. REDUPLICATED WORDS

A reduplicated word repeats part or all of the word.

8.1 Reduplicated verbs

Reduplicated verbs show repetition or intensity and are formed by repeating the verb stem. They are written as one word.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>gukorakora</u> | "grope" |
| <u>kugendagenda</u> | "to walk slowly/to move around" |
| <u>gushaakashaaka</u> | "to look everywhere" |

8.2 **Reduplicated nouns**

Reduplicated nouns begin with a noun class prefix and then repeat the noun stem as in the following:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| <u>ikijeerijeeri</u> | "harvested pea field" |
| <u>ikigoorigoori</u> | "harvested maize field/or empty maize cob" |
| <u>amataamataama</u> | "sheep milk" |
| <u>ikirengarenga</u> | "dusk" |
| <u>igiteeyiteeyi</u> | "dress" |

8.3 **Reduplicated adverbs**

Some words are repeated in their whole form to show intensity. These may be written as two words.

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| vuba vuba | "very quickly" |
| kare kare | "very early" |
| cyane cyane | "very good/especially" |
| huuti huuti | "very fast" |
| byose byose | "all (all)" |
| rwose rwose | "truly" |
| hoose hoose | "everywhere" |

9 **COMPOUND NOUNS**

Compound nouns begin with a noun class prefix and combine two words. In this case the first vowel of the second word is dropped.

umwangayu "adolescent girl"
 from kwanga "to hate" and ivu "ashes"
 iteerabwoba "terrorism"
 from guteera "to cause" and ubwoba "fear"

Note that if the verb forming a compound has only one syllable in its stem, like -ca in guca, then the last vowel of this verb stem doubles in forming compounds.

amacaakubiri "division"

from guca "to cut", ku biri "in two"

ibuvaazuuba "east"

from kuva "to be from" + izuuba "sun"

10. CAPITALIZATION

A capital letter is always used to begin a sentence.

Abo bakoobwa bato badoda neeza.

It is also used when beginning a quotation.

Baaramubwiye bati, "Turagiiye."

Use a capital letter at the beginning of proper names, such as names of people, places and names of languages.

Nsabimana, Kampala, Urufumbira,

11. BORROWED WORDS

All languages borrow words from other languages. This is true of Rufumbira as well. Usually the borrowed word is made to fit the consonant and vowel pattern of the local language. Since most nouns in Rufumbira begin with a vowel and end with a vowel, the word "chalk" becomes icooka and "office" becomes ofiisi. English has many consonant sounds that can come together which Rufumbira does not permit. Frequently, extra vowels will be added between these consonants as in the word siliimu "slim/AIDS" or idiguri "degree".

Some words borrowed from English keep the letter l instead of using r as in poliisi.

12. NAMES

Names of people or places are always capitalized. Names of places are written according to the usual way one sees them written on signposts even if they do put double vowels where one says them, e.g. Kabale not Kabaale, Kisoro not Gisoro, Chihe not Cihe.

Names of people are frequently made up of several words and may be written together as one word. They may be written the way it is customary to write them which may mean not doubling a vowel. For example:

Nsabimana (I pray to God)
Mfitumukiza (I have a saviour)
Ndungutse (I have gained)
Musabyimana (Asked from God)

13. IDEOPHONES

There are certain words which represent sounds. These sounds may be animal sounds, the falling of a tree, the chopping of an axe or many other things. These kinds of sounds do not have to follow the usual pattern of the rest of the language. Sometimes the vowels are three or more in length. Some people may say them differently than other people. Write them the way you say them. Words which are entirely repeated are written separately.

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| kokoriiko | (cock crowing) |
| baaa | (sheep) |
| meee | (goat) |
| dondi dondi | (drop of water) |
| cabari cabari | (walking through dry banana leaves) |

14. PUNCTUATION

The most common punctuation marks you will need to use are the full stop, question mark, exclamation mark, comma, colon, apostrophe and asterisk.

14.1 Full Stop/Period

A full stop marks the boundary between sentences.

Uriiya mugabo atuuye Kisoro. "That man lives in Kisoro."

14.2 Question Mark

A question mark is used at the end of a sentence when you are directly asking someone something.

Uri kujya he? "Where are you going?"

A question mark is never used if you are not directly speaking to the person to whom you are asking the question.

Yambajije aho ndi kujya. "He asked where I was going."

14.3 Exclamation Mark

An exclamation mark is used at the end of a sentence to emphasize some kind of strong emotion or when giving a strong command. It can be used in the following circumstances:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1) surprise | Simbyemera! | "I don't believe it!" |
| 2) happiness | Naatsinze! | "I won!" |
| 3) anger | Waahangaara ute gukubita umwana wanjye! | "How dare you hit my child!" |
| 4) pain | Aiii! | "Ow!" |
| 5) strong command | Nzanira amaazi! | "Bring me some water!" |

14.5 Comma

A comma is used to mark a small pause in a sentence. There are several different times one uses a comma.

1) When listing words or several actions:

Turagura ibimondi, imboga, ubutunguru n'inyama ku iguriro.
"We will buy potatoes, greens, onions and meat at market."

Yiishe ihene, arayibaga, kandi aguriishya inyama.
"He killed the goat, butchered it and sold the meat."

2) After a dependent clause:

a) Yamaze guteeka umuceeri, awugaburira abashyitsi be.
"When she had cooked the rice, she served it to her guests."

b) Igihe cyose yansekaga, nararaakaraga.
"Whenever he laughed at me, I used to get angry."

c) Ariko, umuntu umwe ntiyari yaagasohoye.
However, one person had not yet arrived.

3) Immediately after the word said, just before the exact words of a person.

Petero yaravuze ati, "Igiiye kugwa."
Peter said, "It is going to rain."

4) In numbers over one thousand. Starting from the end of the figure, count back three numbers and put a comma.

1,200 10,000 500,000 1,000,000

14.6 Colon

A colon is like two full stops, one on top of the other. It is often used to direct your attention to something that follows, such as an example or a list of something.

1) Andika ibi bikurikira: ihene, intaama, inka, imbwa
"Write these following: goats, sheep, cow, dog"

- 2) Hariho amooko atatu muri Kisoro: Abahutu, Abatuutsi n'Abatwa.
"There are three ethnic groups in Kisoro District: Hutu, Tutsi and Twa."

14.6 Apostrophe

There are some small independent words which are joined with an apostrophe when the vowel of the first word drops out. We have seen this with the associative words meaning "of", with the preposition na and also with nka. No space is left between the apostrophe and the next word.

Izina ry'umugabo ni Petero.
"The man's name is Peter."

Abagore bari inyuma y'inzu.
"The women are behind the house."

Inka n'imbogo zifite ubumwe.
"The cow and the water buffalo are related."

Inka nk'imbogo.
"A cow is like a buffalo."

14.7 Asterisk

An asterisk * is used after a word or something which may be unclear in meaning and the writer wants to give more of an explanation about it later at the bottom of the page.

Nuuko Yohaana areebye abona uruziramire* rwijingirije ku mbwa. Rwari runini cyane ntiyaashoboye kurwica. Yariirutse abwira se kuuzana imbunda ye. Se yaraaje ararurasa.

*Uruziramire ni inzoka nini, ikaamuura umuntu cyangwa ikintu, ikiica.

15. QUOTATIONS

There are two kinds of quotations. One is called direct quotation and the other is called an indirect quotation. Direct quotations give an exact quotation of what a person has said. After the verb -ti, put a comma. Then put a double quotation mark around the person's exact words, followed by a full stop (or question mark or exclamation mark), then another double quotation mark. The examples below are direct quotations.

Umugabo yaravuze ati, "Ndi bujye Kampala."
The man said, "I am going to Kampala."

Umugore we aramubaza ati, "Urajyayo ryari?"
His wife asked, "When are you going?"

Aramusubiza ati, "Aka kaanya."
He responded, "Right now!"

Indirect questions are never put in quotation marks. They are recognized by the absence of the verb -ti. Instead there could be a conjunction like yuuko "that" or ko in the sentence.

Yavuze yuuko yashaakaga umurimo.
He said that he was looking for work.

Yambwiye ko azaaza ejo.
He told me he would come tomorrow.

More rarely, there is a quotation within another quotation. In that case, the second quotation is enclosed with single quotation marks.

Nyina wa Pawulo yaravuze ati, "So yaravuze ati, 'Jya ku ishuuli' noone kuki utagiye?"
Paul's mother said, "Your father told you, 'Go to school' so why did you not go?"