

GIKUYU
INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

ENGLISH	GIKUYU	GIKUYU PHONETIC	
I am an American and I need your help, but I do not speak your language. I'll point to the question in your language and you can point to the answer in your language.	Ndĩ mũamerikani nanĩ mbatairio nĩ ũteithio waku, no nĩ ndiũĩ rūthiomi rwaku. Kuoguo ngũkuonia kĩũria nawe ũnyonie anja.	Day mow-a-me-ri-KA-ni na-NAY ba-ta-ay-RI-o nay owe-te-i-THI-o WA-coo, no KNEE-ay dee-OWE-ay row-thee-O-mi ROW-AH-coo. coo-o-goo-o go-coo-o-NI-ah kay-owe-RI-ah NA-we owe-ni-o-NI-eh A-jar.	
me - as in men ba - as in bar	ta - as in tar dee - as in deed.	mi - as in miss goo - as in goose	na - as in nap we - as in wet

COMMUNICATION

ENGLISH	GIKUYU	GIKUYU PHONETIC	
Will you help me?	No ũndeithie?	No awe-DE-i-thee-eh?	
Is there someone that speaks English?	He mũndũ waragia gĩth ũngũ?	He MOW-dough wa-ra-GHEE-ah gay-THOUGH-go?	
Are they willing to help me?	Noandeithie?(sing) Nomandeithie? (pl)	No-AH-de-i-thee-eh?(sing) No-MA-de-i-thee-e? (pl)	
Can they come here?	Nooke haha? (sing) Nomoke haha? (pl)	No-O-ke HA-ha? (sing) No-MO-ke HA-ha? (pl)	
I must go now but, I want to thank you for your help.	No mũhaka thiĩ rĩu. Nonĩngwenda gũgũcokeria ngatho nĩ ũteithio waku.	No mow-HA-car thee-AY RAY-u. No-nay-GO-E-da go-go-SHO-ke-ri-ah NGA-tho nay owe-TE-i-thee-o WA-coo	
My government will repay you for your kindness.	Thirikari yakwa nĩ gũkũriha nĩ ũtana waku	Thee-ri-CAR-ray YAH-qua NAY-ay go-coal-RAY-ha nay owe-TA-na WA-coo	
I greatly appreciate your assistance.	Nĩ ndacokia ngatho mũno nĩ ũteithio waku	Nay-da-sho-KEY-ah GA-tho MOW-no nay awe-te-i-THEE-o WA-coo	
de - as in den i - as in if wa - as in wad ra - as in rat	de - as in den ma - as in man o - as in on ke - as in ken	e - as in end da - as in dan sho - as in shop ri - as in rib	tho - as in thorn te - as in ten ta - as in tan

BASIC NEEDS

ENGLISH	GIKUYU	GIKUYU PHONETIC	
May I have some water?	No ũhe maĩ?	No awe-HE MA-ay	
May I have some food?	No ũhe irio?	No awe-HE i-RI-o?	
I am injured. Is there someone that can help me?	Ndĩ mũgurarie. He mũndũ ũngĩndeithia?	day mow-goo-RA-ri-e. He MOW-dough owe-gay-DE-i-thee-ah?	
Do you have any bandages?	Wĩna itama cia kuoha?	Way-NA i-TA-ma she-A quo-O-ha?	
Can you contact someone to help me?	No ũnjitire mũndũ ũngĩ ndeithia?	No awe-jay-TAY-re MOW-dough owe-gay-de-i-thee-ah?	
Where is the latrine?	Kĩha kĩoro kana handũ ha gwĩteithia?	Cay-HA cay-O-ro KA-na HA-Dough ha go-ay-te-i-thee-ah?	
I am very tired. Is there a place I can sleep?	Ndĩmũnogu mũno. he handũ ingĩ hurũka?	Day-mow-NO-goo MU-no. he HA-dough i-GAY hu-ROW-ka?	
May I have a blanket, or more clothing? Qui	No nyone mũrengeti kana kĩndũ gĩakwĩhumbĩra?	No-NYO-ne mow-ray-GAY-tea KA-na KAY-dough gay-A-qui-HU-bay-rah?	
i - as in 'if' goo - as in lagoon ri - as in rib	de - as in den re - as in ret na - as in nap	ro - as in rot te - as in ten he - as in hen	ka - as in can nyo - as in canyon ne - as in net

TRAVEL

ENGLISH	GIKUYU	GIKUYU PHONETIC
Can you show me my location on a map?	No ũnyonie harĩa tũũrĩ rĩũ mabu-inĩ?	No awe-knee-o-NI-e ha-RE-a tow-U-ray RAY-uh ma-bu-l-nay?
Can you send word that I am alive? Kikũyũ	No ũtũme ndũmĩrĩrĩ atĩ ndĩ oho? atĩ ndĩ muoyo.	No awe-TOW-me dough-may-RAY-re AT-ay day-O-ho? AT-ay day mow-O-yo.
How far is it to friendly territory?	Nĩ kũrũihu rĩu na kwa bũrũri wa arata?	Nay coo-ra-l-hu RAY-u na qua bow-ROW-re wa a-RA-tah?
Can you take me there?	No ũndware?	No AWE-dough-a-re ² ?
If you cannot take me, will you give me directions?	Angĩikorwo ndũ kũhota kũndwara no ũnyonie njira?	A-gay-i-KO-row-o dough coo-HO-ta coo-DOUGH-A-ra no awe-KNEE-on-e JAY-ra?
Is it safe to travel now?	Kwĩ na thayũ rĩu? Kahinda gaka nĩ kega gakumagara?	Qui -na THA-you RAY-u? Ka-HE da GA-ka nay KE-ga ga-ku-ma-GA-ra?
Which way do you advise me to travel?	Nĩ njĩra irĩikũ njega ya kũgerera?	Nay-JAY-ra ay-RAY-coal JE-ga ya coal-ge-RE-ra?
How can I travel?	Ingĩtũmĩra kĩĩ gũthii?	I-gay-tow-MAY-ra KAY-go-THEE-ay?
Automobile	Ngari	GA-ri
Train	Ngari ya mwaki	GA-ri ya MOW-A-ki
Boat	Gatarũ	ga-TA-row
Cart/Wagon	Mũgogo teni	mow-go-go TE-ni
Pack Animal	Bunda	BU-nda
On Foot	magũrũ	ma-GO-row

me - as in men

re - as in red

i - as in if

he - as in heed

UNFRIENDLY

ENGLISH	GIKUYU	GIKUYU PHONETIC
What types of troops are in the area?	Nĩmbũtũ cia mũthemba ũrĩkũ cĩĩ gũkũ?	Nay-BOW-tow SHE-a mow-THE-bar owe-RAY-coal SHE-ay GO-coal?
Are they army troops?	Nĩ cia mbara?	Nay SHE-are BAR-ah?
Are they militia?	Nĩ thigari cia bara nene	Nay thee-GIRL-ree SHE-a BAR-ra NE-ne
Have you noticed any increase of troops or patrolling?	Nĩũkuona ta mbũtũ ciongererekete?	Nay-owe-ku-O-na ta BOW-tow she-o-ge-re-re-KE-te?
When do they patrol?	Mathiũrũrũkaga rĩ?	Ma-thi-owe-row-row-ka-GA ray?
Are you aware of others like me?	Nĩ wonete andũ mahana taniĩ?	Nay wo-NE-te A-dough ma-HA-na ta-KNEE-ay?
Can you take me to them?	No ũndware harĩa marĩ?	No awe-DO-ARE-re ha-RAY MA-ray?

na - as in nap
ge - as in get

re - as in red
te - as in ten

wo - as in won
ne - as in net

VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	GIKUYU	GIKUYU PHONETIC
Hello	Wĩ mwega (Nĩatĩa)?	Way MOW-E-ga (Nay-a-TAY-a)?
Goodbye	Tigwo nawega (Kwahĩri)	TEA-goo-o na-WE-ga (qua-HE-ray)
Thank you	Nĩ thengio	Nay the-GHEE-o
Please	Nĩndakũhoya	Nay-da-coo-HO-yah
Ammunition	Indo cia mbara	I-do she-a BA-ra
Armed Vehicle	Ngari ya mbara	GA-re yah BA-ra
Checkpoint	cekiboiniti	she-ki-bo-i-NI-tea
Day	Mũthenya	Mow-THE-knee-a
Danger	Ūgwati	awe-go-AT-ee
Desert	Werũ-inĩ	We-row-I-nay
East	Itherero	I-the-RE-ro
Evening	Hwaĩ-inĩ	Hole-wa-ay-I-nay
Food	Irio	I-RE-o
Good	Wega	WE-ga
Bad	Ūru	OWE-ru
Here	Haha	HA-ha
Hour	Ithaa	I-THA-a
Kilometer	Kirometa	Key-ro-ME-ta
Knife	Kahiũ	Ka-HE-owe
Leader	Mũtongoria	Mow-to-go-RE-a
Medicine	Ndawa	DA-wa
Men	Andũ arũme	A-dough a-ROW-me
Women	Atumia	A-to-ME-a
Minute	Ndagĩka	da-GAY-car
Morning	Rũciĩnĩ	Row-she-I-nay
Mountain	Kĩrĩma	Kay-RAY-ma
Night	Ūtukũ	Owe-TOO-coo
North	Nai-gũrũ	Na-i-GO-row
Pass	Njĩra	JAY-ra
Pistol	Mũcinga	Mow-SHE-ga
Radio	Kameme	Ka-ME-me
River	Rũĩ	ROW-ay

i - as in if
 tha - as in that
 ke - as in ken
 da - as in dan
 ro - as rot

go - as got
 ga - as in gap
 re - as in reapplication
 ee - as in week
 we - as in wet

Road	Barabara	Ba-ra-BA-ra
Shelter	Kĩhurũko	Kay-hu-ROW-call
South	Na kĩanda	Na kay-A-da
There	Harĩa	Ha-RAY-a
Valley	Itũra	I-TOW-ra
Village	Itũra	I-TOW-ra
Water	Maĩ	MA-ay
Weapon	kĩa mbara	Kay-a BAR-ra
West	Rũgũrũ	Row-GO-row
Yes	ĩĩ	Ay
No	Aca	A-sha
1 One	ĩmwe	ay-MOW-eh
2 Two	Igĩrĩ	i-GAY-ray
3 Three	Ithatũ	i-THA-tow
4 Four	Inya	i-KNEE-are
5 Five	Ithano	i-THA-no
6 Six	Ithathatũ	i-tha-THA-tow
7 Seven	Mũgwanja	mow-go-A-jar
8 Eight	Inyanya	i-knee-are-KNEE-are
9 Nine	Kenda	KE-da
10 Ten	Ikũmi	i-COO-me
20 Twenty	Mĩrongo-ĩrĩ	may-ro-go-AY-ray
30 Thirty	Mĩrongo-itatũ	may-ro-go-ay-TAR-tow
40 Forty	Mĩrongo- ĩna	may-ro-go-AY-knar
50 Fifty	Mĩrongo- ĩtano	may-ro-go-ay-TA-no
60 Sixty	Mĩrongo- ĩtandatũ	may-ro-go-ay-ta-DA-tow
70 Seventy	Mĩrongo- Mũgwanja	may-ro-go-Mow-GO-A-jar
80 Eighty	Mĩrongo- ĩnana	may-ro-go-ay-NA-na
90 Ninety	Mĩrongo-kenda	may-ro-go-KE-da
100 One hundred	Igana	i-GA-na
500 Five hundred	Magana matano	ma-ga-na ma-TA-no
1000 One thousand	Ngiri ĩmwe	ghee-RE ay-MOW-eh

me - as in met
 me - as in meet
 sha - as in shah

he - as in the
 masculine English
 pronoun