

Shona



Vowels		Consonants	
Symbol	English sound	Symbol	English sound
aa	father	b	bed
e	bet	b'	strong b with air sucked inward
ee	see	ch	cheat
o	pot	d	dog
oo	zoo	d'	strong d with air sucked inward
<p>In this chapter, the Shona pronunciation is given in orange after each phrase.</p> <p>Each syllable is separated by a dot. For example:</p> <p><i>Mazviita.</i> maa-zvee-ta</p> <p>Shona's glottalised consonants, simplified as b' and d' in our pronunciation guide, are made by tightening and releasing the space between the vocal cords when you pronounce them. Both sounds are 'implosive' – instead of breathing out to make the sound, you breathe in.</p>		dz	adze
		f	fun
		g	go
		h	hat
		j	jar
		k	kit
		m	man
		n	not
		ng	ring
		ny	canyon
		p	pet
		r	run (trilled)
		s	sun
		sh	shot
		t	top
		ts	lets
		v	very
w	win		
y	yes		
z	zero		
zh	pleasure		

introduction

'Saunter', 'stroll', 'amble', 'march': a few of the English variations on 'walk'. Shona (*ChiShona* chee-sho-na) beats English hands down in this department, though – what about 'walk with buttocks shaking' (*mbwembwera* mbwe-mbwe-raa), 'walk squelchingly through mud' (*chakwaira* chaa-kwaa-ee-raa), 'walk with a stick' (*donzva* d'o-nzvaa), 'walk a long way' (*panha* paa-nhaa) or 'walk in a very short dress' (*pushuka* poo-shoo-kaa)? And that's just a sample of the more than 200 words Shona has for this everyday activity. Shona, a member of the Bantu language family, is spoken by about 11 million people, mainly in the southern African countries of Mozambique, Botswana and Zambia, in addition to a large number in the diaspora. The vast majority of speakers, however, are in Zimbabwe: the three official languages are English, Shona and Ndebele, but Shona is spoken by about 80 per cent of the population. The language has a flourishing literary culture, including novels, short stories, plays and journalism, and an enormous output of poetry – in fact, due to the metaphorical nature of the language, it's as though every Shona speaker is a poet.

shona (native language) shona (generally understood)



language difficulties

Do you speak English?	<i>Munotaura chiNgezi here?</i>	moo-no-taa-oo-raa chee-nge-zee he-re
Do you understand?	<i>Munonzvisisa here?</i>	moo-no-nzvee-see-saa he-re
I understand.	<i>Ndinonzvisisa.</i>	ndee-no-nzvee-see-saa
I don't understand.	<i>Handinzvisisi.</i>	haa-ndee-nzvee-see-see
Could you please ...? repeat that speak more slowly write it down	<i>Munga ... wo here? dzokorora izvozvo taurisa zvinyoronyoro zvinyorei pasi</i>	moo-ngaa ... wo he-re dzo-ko-ro-raa i-zvo-zvo taa-oo-ree-saa zvee-nyo-ro-nyo-ro zvee-nyo-re-ee paa-see

time, dates & numbers

In time and date expressions, Shona uses English-style numbers.

What time is it?	<i>Inguvai?</i>	ee-ngoo-vaa-ee
It's (two) o'clock.	<i>I(tu) kiroko.</i>	ee-(too) kee-ro-ko
Quarter past (one).	<i>Kota pasiti (hwani).</i>	ko-taa paa-see-tee (hwaa-nee)
Half past (one).	<i>Hafu pasiti (hwani).</i>	haa-foo paa-see-tee (hwaa-nee)
Quarter to (eight).	<i>Kota tu(eyiti).</i>	ko-taa too-(e-yee-tee)
At what time ...?	<i>Nenguvai ...?</i>	ne-ngoo-vaa-ee ...
At ...	<i>Na ...</i>	naa ...
It's (15 December).	<i>Ndi (15 Dhisemba).</i>	ndee (fee-fee-tee-nee dee-se-mbaa)

yesterday	<i>nezuro</i>	ne-zoo-ro
today	<i>nhasi</i>	nhaa-see
tomorrow	<i>mangwana</i>	maa-ngwaa-naa

Monday	<i>Muvhuro</i>	moo-vhoo-ro
Tuesday	<i>Chipiri</i>	chee-pee-ree
Wednesday	<i>Chitatu</i>	chee-taa-too
Thursday	<i>China</i>	chee-naa
Friday	<i>Chishanu</i>	chee-shaa-noo
Saturday	<i>Mugovera</i>	mu-go-ve-raa
Sunday	<i>Svondo</i>	svo-ndo

numbers

0	<i>ziro</i>	zee-ro	20	<i>makumi</i>	ma-koo-mee
1	<i>-mwe</i>	-mwe		<i>maviri</i>	maa-vee-ree
2	<i>-viri</i>	-vee-ree	21	<i>makumi</i>	ma-koo-mee
3	<i>-tatu</i>	-taa-too		<i>maviri</i>	maa-vee-ree
4	<i>-na</i>	-naa		<i>neimwe</i>	ne-ee-mwe
5	<i>-shanu</i>	-shaa-noo	22	<i>makumi</i>	ma-koo-mee
6	<i>-tanhatu</i>	-taa-nhaa-too		<i>maviri</i>	maa-vee-ree
7	<i>-nomwe</i>	-no-mwe		<i>nembiri</i>	ne-mbee-ree
8	<i>-sere</i>	-se-re	30	<i>makumi</i>	maa-koo-mee
9	<i>-pfumbamwe</i>	-pfoo-mbaa-mwe		<i>matatu</i>	maa-taa-too
10	<i>gumi</i>	goo-mee	40	<i>makumi</i>	maa-koo-mee
11	<i>gumi neimwe</i>	goo-mee ne-ee-mwe		<i>mana</i>	maa-naa
12	<i>gumi nembiri</i>	goo-mee ne-mbee-ree	50	<i>makumi</i>	maa-koo-mee
13	<i>gumi nenhatu</i>	goo-mee ne-nhaa-too		<i>mashanu</i>	maa-shaa-noo
14	<i>gumi nena</i>	goo-mee ne-naa	60	<i>makumi</i>	maa-koo-mee
15	<i>gumineshanu</i>	goo-mee ne-shaa-noo		<i>matanhatu</i>	maa-taa-nhaa-too
16	<i>gumi nenhanhatu</i>	goo-mee ne-nhaa-nhaa-too	70	<i>makumi</i>	maa-koo-mee
17	<i>gumi nenomwe</i>	goo-mee ne-no-mwe		<i>manomwe</i>	maa-no-mwe
18	<i>gumi nesere</i>	goo-mee ne-se-re	80	<i>makumi</i>	maa-koo-mee
19	<i>gumi nepfumbamwe</i>	goo-me ne-pfoo-mbaa-mwe		<i>masere</i>	maa-se-re
			90	<i>makumi</i>	maa-koo-mee
				<i>mapfu-mbamwe</i>	maa-pfoo-mbaa-mwe
			100	<i>zana</i>	zaa-naa
			1000	<i>chiuru</i>	chee-oo-roo

border crossing

I'm here ...	<i>Ndiri muno ...</i>	ndee-ree moo-no ...
in transit	<i>patiranziti</i>	paa-tee-ra-nzee-tee
on business	<i>nezve bhizinesi</i>	ne-zve bee-zee-ne-see
on holiday	<i>pahorodhi</i>	paa-ho-ro-dee
I'm here for ...	<i>Ndiri muno kwe ...</i>	ndee-ree moo-no kwe ...
(10) days	<i>mazuva (gumi)</i>	maa-zoo-vaa (goo-mee)
(three) weeks	<i>mavhiki (matatu)</i>	maa-vhee-kee (maa-ta-too)
(two) months	<i>mwedzi (miviri)</i>	mwe-dzee (mee-vee-ree)

I'm going to (Gweru).

Ndiri kuenda ku (Gweru).

ndee-ree koo-e-ndaa koo (gwe-roo)

I'm staying at the (Midland Hotel).

*Ndiri kugara pa
(Midland Hotera).*

ndee-ree koo-gaa-raa paa
(mee-dlaand ho-te-raa)



tickets

One ... ticket
(to Bulawayo),
please.

*Ndinodawo tiketi
rimwe ... (roku
Bhururwayo).*

ndee-no-daa-wo tee-ke-tee
ree-mwe ... (ro-koo
boo-roo-waa-yo)

one-way
return

*rehwaniweyi
rokuenda
ndichidzoka*

re-hwaa-nee-we-yee
ro-koo-e-ndaa
ndee-chee-dzo-kaa

I'd like to ... my
ticket, please.

*Ndinodawo ku ...
tiketi rangu.*

ndee-no-daa-wo koo ...
tee-ke-tee raa-ngoo

cancel
change
collect

*kanzura
chinja
korekita*

kaa-nzoo-raa
chee-njaa
ko-re-kee-ta

Is there a ...?

Pane ... here?

paa-ne ... he-re

toilet
air conditioning

*chimbudzi
eya kondishina*

che-mboo-dzee
e-yaa ko-ndee-shee-naa

I'd like a smoking/nonsmoking seat, please.

*Ndingadawo pasiti
panoputirwa/
pasingaputirwi.*

ndee-ngaa-daa-wo paa-see-tee
paa-no-poo-tee-rwaa/
paa-see-ngaa-poo-tee-rwee

How long does the trip take?

Pane mufambo wakadii?

paa-ne moo-faa-mbo waa-kaa-dee-ee

Is it a direct route?

*Iyi ndiyo nzira inonanga
ikoko here?*

ee-yee ndee-yo nzee-raa ee-no-naa-ngaa
ee-ko-ko he-re

transport

Where does the flight (to Victoria Falls) arrive/depart?

*Ndege ye (kuVictoria Falls)
inosvikira/inosimukira
kupi?*

nde-ge ye (koo-vee-kee-to-ree-yaa fols)
ee-no-svee-kee-raa/ee-no-see-moo-kee-raa
koo-pee

How long will it be delayed?

Ichanonoka zvakadii?

ee-chaa-no-no-kaa zva-kaa-d'ee-ee

Is this the bus to (Chivhu)?

*Iri ndiro bhazi roku
(Chivhu) here?*

ee-ree ndee-ro baa-zee ro-koo
(chee-vhoo) he-re

Is this the train to (Mutare)?

*Ichi ndicho chitima chokwa
(Mutare) here?*

ee-che ndee-cho chee-tee-maa cho-kwaa
(moo-taa-re) he-re

How much is it to ...?

Kunoita marii kuenda ku ...?

koo-no-ee-taa maa-ree-ee koo-e-ndaa koo ...

Please take me to (this address).

*Nditakureiwo kuenda
ku (adhiresi iyi).*

ndee-taa-koo-re-ee-wo koo-e-ndaa
koo (aa-dee-re-see ee-yee)

I'd like to hire a ...
(with air conditioning).

*Ndinoda kuhaya ... ndee-no-d'a koo-haa-yaa ...
(ine eya kondishina). (ee-ne e-yaa ko-ndee-shee-naa)*

car
4WD

*motokari
ye fohwiri
dhiraiivhi*

mo-to-kaa-ree
ye fo-hwee-ree
dee-raa-ee-vhee

How much is it for (three) days/weeks?

*Inoita marii kwemazuva/
mavhiki (matatu)?*

ee-no-ee-taa maa-ree-ee kwe-maa-zoo-vaa/
maa-vhee-kee (maa-taa-too)

directions

Where's the (nearest) internet café?

*Ko indaneti kafe
(iri pedyo pedyo) iri kupi?*

ko ee-ndaa-ne-tee kaa-fe
(ee-ree pe-jgo pe-jgo) ee-ree koo-pee

Where's the (nearest) market?

*Ko musika (uri pedyo pedyo)
uri kupi?*

ko moo-see-kaa (oo-ree pe-jgo pe-jgo)
oo-ree koo-pee

Is this the road to (Mozambique)?

Uyu ndiwo mugwagwa woku (Mozambiki) here? oo-yoo ndee-wo moo-gwaa-gwaa wo-koo (mo-zaa-mbee-kee) he-re

Can you show me (on the map)?

Munganditaridzawo (pamepu) here? moo-ngaa-ndee-taa-ree-dzaa-wo (paa-me-poo) he-re

What's the address? *Kero yacho ndiyani?* ke-ro yaa-cho ndee-yaa-nee

How far is it? *Kure zvakadii?* koo-re zvaa-kaa-d'ee-ee

How do I get there? *Ndinosvikako sei?* ndee-no-svee-kaa-ko se-ee

Turn left/right. *Konera kuruboshwe/kurudyi.* ko-ne-raa koo-roo-bo-shwe/koo-roo-jgee

It's ...	<i>Iri ...</i>	ee-ree ...
behind ...	<i>seri ...</i>	se-ree ...
in front of ...	<i>mberi kwe ...</i>	mbe-ree kwe
near (to ...)	<i>pedyo (ne ...)</i>	pe-jgo (ne ...)
next to ...	<i>padivi pe ...</i>	pa-d'ee-vee pe ...
on the corner	<i>pakona</i>	paa-ko-naa
opposite ...	<i>pakatarisana ne ...</i>	paa-kaa-taa-ree-saa-naa ne ...
straight ahead	<i>nanga mberi</i>	naa-nga mbe-ree
there	<i>apo</i>	aa-po

accommodation

Where's a ...?	<i>Ndokupi ...?</i>	ndo-koo-pee ...
camping ground	<i>kunokembwa</i>	koo-no-ke-mbwaa
guesthouse	<i>kuimba yavaenzi</i>	koo-ee-mbaa yaa-vaa-e-nzee
hotel	<i>kuhotera</i>	koo-ho-te-raa
youth hostel	<i>kuhositeri</i>	koo-ho-see-te-ree

Can you recommend somewhere cheap/good?

Ungarekomenda kumwe kwakachipa/kwakanaka? oo-ngaa-re-ko-me-ndaa koo-mwe kwaa-kaa-chee-paa/kwaa-kaa-naa-kaa

I'd like to book a room, please.

Ndinokumbirawo kubhuka rumu. ndee-no-koo-mbee-raa-wo koo-boo-kaa roo-moo

I have a reservation.

Ndakarizevha. ndaa-kaa-ree-ze-vha

Do you have a ... room?	<i>Mune rumu ... here?</i>	moo-ne roo-moo ... he-re
single	<i>yomunhu mumwe</i>	yo-moo-nhoo moo-mwe
double	<i>yavanhu vaviri</i>	yaa-vaa-nhoo vaa-vee-ree
twin	<i>ine mibhedha miviri</i>	ee-ne mee-be-daa mee-vee-ree

How much is it per (night/person)?

Imarii pa(zuva/munhu)? ee-maa-ree-ee paa-(zoo-vaa/moo-nhoo)

I'd like to stay for (two) nights.

Ndingada kugara kweusiku (huviri). ndee-ngaa-daa koo-gaa-raa kwe-oo-see-koo (hoo-vee-ree)

What time is check-out?

Cheki auti iriko nenguvai? che-kee aa-oo-tee ee-ree-ko ne-ngoo-vaa-ee

Am I allowed to camp here?

Ndinobvumirwa kukemba panohere? ndee-no-bvoo-mee-rwaa koo-ke-mbaa paa-no-he-re

banking & communications

I'd like to ...	<i>Ndinoda ku-...</i>	ndee-no-daa koo-...
arrange a transfer	<i>ronga zvetiranzifeya</i>	ro-ngaa-zve-tee-raa-nzee-fe-yaa
cash a cheque	<i>kesha cheki</i>	ke-shaa che-kee
change a travellers cheque	<i>chinja macheiki okufambisa</i>	chee-njaa maa-che-kee o-koo-faa-mbee-saa
change money	<i>chinja mari</i>	chee-njaa maa-ree
withdraw money	<i>dhirowa mari</i>	dee-ro-waa maa-ree

I want to ...	<i>Ndinoda ku-...</i>	ndee-no-daa koo-...
buy a phonecard	<i>tenga kadhi refoni</i>	te-ngaa-kaa-dee-re-fo-nee
call (Singapore)	<i>fonera (kuSingapo)</i>	fo-ne-raa (koo-see-ngaa-po)
reverse the charges	<i>rivhesa machaji</i>	ree-vhe-saa maa-chaaj-je
use a printer	<i>shandisai purinda</i>	shaa-ndee-saa-ee poo-ree-ndaa
use the internet	<i>shandisai indaneti</i>	shaa-ndee-saa-ee ee-ndaa-ne-tee

How much is it per hour?

Imarii paawa? ee-maa-ree-ee paa-aa-waa

How much does a (three-minute) call cost?

Kufona kwe (maminitsi matatu) kunoita marii? koo-fo-naa kwe (maa-mee-nee-tsee maa-taa-too) koo-no-ee-taa maa-ree-ee

(One dollar) per minute/hour.

(Dhora rimwe) paminiti/paawa. (do-raa ree-mwe) paa-mee-nee-tee/paa-aa-waa

tours

When's the next ...?	<i>Ko ... rini?</i>	ko ... ree-nee
day trip	<i>rwendo rwanhasi runotevera ruriko</i>	rwe-ndo rwa-a-nhaa-see roo-no-te-ve-raa roo-re-ko
tour	<i>tuwa inotevera iriko</i>	too-waa ee-no-te-ve-raa ee-ree-ko
Is ... included?	<i>Ko ... -kasanganiswa here?</i>	ko ... -kaa-saa-ngaa-nee-swaa he-re
accommodation	<i>pokurara pa</i>	po-koo-raa-raa paa
the admission charge	<i>mari yokupindisa ya</i>	maa-ree yo-koo-pee-ndee-saa yaa
food	<i>mari yokudya ya</i>	maa-ree yo-koo-jgaa yaa
transport	<i>mari yokufambisa ya</i>	maa-ree yo-koo-faa-mbee-saa yaa

How long is the tour?

Tuwa ichatora nguva yakadii? too-waa ee-cha-a-to-raa ngoo-vaa yaa-kaa-d'ee-ee

What time should we be back?

Tinofanira kudzoka nenguvaai? tee-no-faa-nee-raa koo-dzo-kaa ne-ngoo-vaa-ee-ee

shopping

I'm looking for ...

Ndiri kutsvaga ... ndee-ree koo-tsvaa-gaa ...

I need film for this camera.

Ndinoda firimu rekamera iyi. ndee-no-da fee-ree-moo re-kaa-me-raa ee-yee

Can I listen to this?

Ndingateererawo kune izvi here? ndee-ngaa-te-e-re-raa-wo koo-nee ee-zvee he-re

Can I have my ... repaired?

Ndingagadzirirwa ... yangu here? ndee-ngaa-gaa-dzee-ree-rwaa ... yaa-ngoo he-re

When will it be ready?

Inenge yapera rinhi? ee-ne-nge yaa-pe-raa ree-nee

How much is it?

Inoita marii? ee-o-ee-taa maa-ree-ee

Can you write down the price?

Unganyora mutengo wacho pasi here? oo-ngaa-nyo-raa moo-te-ngo waa-cho paa-see he-re

What's your lowest price?

Mutengo wakachipisa ndoupi? moo-te-ngo waa-kaa-chee-pee-saa ndo-oo-pee

I'll give you (five) dollars.

Ndinokupai madhora (mashanu). ndee-no-koo-paa-ee maa-do-raa (maa-shaa-noo)

There's a mistake in the bill.

Pane chakanganiswa pabhiri. pa-ne cha-kaa-ngaa-nee-swaa paa-bee-ree

It's faulty.

Rakanyangara. raa-kaa-nyaa-ngaa-raa

I'd like a receipt/refund, please.

Ndinodawo risiti/rifandi. ndee-no-daa-wo ree-see-tee/ree-faa-ndee

Do you accept ...?

credit cards	<i>Munobvuma ... here? makiredhiti kadzi</i>	moo-no-bvoo-maa ... he-re maa-kee-re-dee-tee kaa-dzee
debit cards	<i>madhebhiti kadzi</i>	ma-de-bee-tee ka-dzee
travellers cheques	<i>macheki okufambisa</i>	maa-che-kee oo-koo-faa-mbee-saa

Could you ...?

burn a CD from my memory card	<i>Munga ... here? pisa CD kubva mumemori kadhi rangu dhivheropai firimu iri</i>	moo-nga ... he-re pee-sa see-dee koo-bvaa moo-me-mo-ree kaa-dee raa-ngoo dee-vhe-ro-pa-ee fee-ree-moo ee-ree
develop this film		

making conversation

Hello.

Mhoroi.

mho-ro-ee

Good night.

Rarai zvakanaka.

raa-raa-ee zvaa-kaa-naa-kaa

Goodbye.

Tichaonana.

tee-cha-a-o-naa-naa

Mr

Va-

vaa-

Mrs

Mai

maa-ee

Ms/Miss

Muzvare

moo-zvaa-re

How are you?

Makadii?

maa-kaa-d'ee-ee

Fine, and you?

Ndiripo makadiiwo?

ndee-ree-po maa-kaa-d'ee-ee-wo

What's your name?

Zita renyu ndiani?

zee-taa re-nyoo ndee-aa-nee

My name's ...

Zita rangu ndinonzi ...

zee-taa raa-ngoo ndee-no-nzee ...

I'm pleased to

Ndinofara

ndee-no-faa-raa

meet you.

kukuzivai.

koo-koo-zee-vaa-ee

This is my ...		
boyfriend	<i>Uyu mukomana wangu.</i>	oo-yoo moo-ko-maa-naa waa-ngoo
daughter	<i>Uyu mwanasikana wangu.</i>	oo-yoo mwaa-naa-see-kaa-naa waa-ngoo
father friend	<i>Ava ndi-baba vangu. Iyi ishamwari yangu.</i>	aa-vaa ndee-b'aa-b'aa vaa-ngoo ee-yee ee-shaa-mwaa-ree yaa-ngoo
girlfriend	<i>Uyu musikana wangu.</i>	oo-yoo moo-see-kaa-naa waa-ngoo
husband	<i>Uyu murume wangu.</i>	oo-yoo moo-roo-me waa-ngoo
mother	<i>Ava ndi-amai vangu.</i>	aa-vaa ndee-aa-maa-ee vaa-ngoo
sibling (of the opposite sex)	<i>Iyi ihanzvadzi yangu.</i>	ee-yee ee-haa-nzvaa-dzee yaa-ngoo
sibling (elder of the same sex)	<i>Uyu mukoma wangu.</i>	oo-yoo moo-ko-maa waa-ngoo
sibling (younger of the same sex)	<i>Uyu munin'ina wangu.</i>	oo-yoo moo-nee-ngee-naa waa-ngoo
son	<i>Uyu mwanakomana wangu.</i>	oo-yoo mwaa-naa-ko-maa-naa waa-ngoo
wife	<i>Ava vadzimai vangu.</i>	aa-vaa vaa-dzee-maa-ee vaa-ngoo
Here's my ...	<i>Heyi ... yangu.</i>	he-yee ... yaa-ngoo
What's your ...?	<i>Ko ... yenyu ndiani?</i>	ko ... ye-nyoo ndee-aa-nee
(email) address	<i>(imeiri) adhiresi</i>	(ee-me-ree) a-dee-re-see
phone number	<i>nhamba yefoni</i>	nhaa-mbaa ye-fo-nee
Where are you from?	<i>Munobva kupi?</i>	moo-no-bvaa koo-pee
I'm from ...	<i>Ndinobva ku ...</i>	ndee-no-bvaa koo ...
Australia	<i>Ositireriya</i>	o-see-tee-re-ree-yaa
Canada	<i>Kanadha</i>	kaa-naa-daa
New Zealand	<i>Nyuzirandi</i>	nyoo-zee-raa-ndee
I'm married. m	<i>Ndakaroorwa.</i>	ndaa-kaa-ro-o-raa
I'm married. f	<i>Ndakaroorwa.</i>	ndaa-kaa-ro-o-rwaa
I'm not married. m	<i>Handina kuroora.</i>	haa-ndee-naa koo-ro-o-raa
I'm not married. f	<i>Handina kuroorwa.</i>	haa-ndee-naa koo-ro-o-rwaa
Can I take a photo (of you)?	<i>Ndingatora pikicha (inewe) here?</i>	ndee-ngaa-to-raa pee-kee-chaa (ee-ne-we) he-re

eating out

Can you recommend a ...?	<i>Munga-rekomenda ... here?</i>	moo-nga-re-ko-me-ndaa ... he-re
bar	<i>bhawa</i>	baa-waa
dish	<i>chokudya</i>	cho-koo-jgaa
place to eat	<i>nzvimbo yokudyira</i>	nzvee-mbo yo-koo-jgee-raa
I'd like ..., please.	<i>Ndingadawo ...</i>	ndee-ngaa-daa-wo ...
the bill	<i>bhiri</i>	bee-ree
the menu	<i>minyu</i>	mee-nyoo
a table for (two)	<i>tebhuru ye (vaviri)</i>	te-boo-roo ye (vaa-vee-ree)
that dish	<i>chikafu icho</i>	chee-kaa-foo ee-cho
Do you have vegetarian food?	<i>Mune kudya kwechi-vhegiterieni here?</i>	moo-ne koo-jga kwe-chee-vhe-gee-te-ree-e-nee he-re
Could you prepare a meal without ...?	<i>Mungagadzira kudya kusina ... here?</i>	moo-ngaa-gaa-dzee-raa koo-jga koo-see-naa ... he-re
eggs	<i>mazai</i>	maa-zaa-ee
meat stock	<i>muto wenyama</i>	mo-to we-nyaa-maa
(cup of) coffee/tea ...	<i>(kapu ye-)kofi/tii ...</i>	(kaa-poo ye-)ko-fee/tee-ee ...
with milk	<i>ine mukaka</i>	ee-ne moo-kaa-kaa
without sugar	<i>isina shuga</i>	ee-see-naa shoo-gaa
(boiled) water	<i>mvura (yakavidzwa)</i>	mvoo-raa (yaa-kaa-vee-dzwaa)

emergencies

Call ...!	<i>Daidzai ...!</i>	d'aa-ee-dzaa-ee ...
an ambulance	<i>ambhurenzi</i>	aam-boo-re-nzee
a doctor	<i>dhokotera</i>	do-ko-te-raa
the police	<i>mapurisa</i>	maa-poo-ree-saa
Could you help me, please?	<i>Mungandibatsirawo here?</i>	moo-ngaa-ndee-b'aa-tsee-raa-wo he-re
Where are the toilets?	<i>Zvimbudzi zviri kupi?</i>	zvee-mboo-dzee zvee-ree koo-pee
I want to report an offence.	<i>Ndinoda kumhan'ara mhosva.</i>	ndee-no-daa koo-mha-ngaa-raa mho-svaa

I have insurance.

Ndine ishuwareenzi. ndee-ne ee-shoo-waa-re-nzee

I want to contact my consulate/embassy.

Ndinoda kutaura neEmbasi yangu. ndee-no-d'aa koo-taa-oo-raa ne-e-mba-see yaa-ngoo

My bags were stolen.

Mabhegi angu abiwa. maa-bhe-gee aa-ngoo aa-b'ee-waa

My passport was stolen.

Pasipoti rangu rabiwa. paa-see-po-tee raa-ngoo raa-b'ee-waa

My wallet was stolen.

Chikwama changu chabiwa. chee-kwaa-maa chaa-ngoo chaa-b'ee-waa

I've been assaulted.

Ndarohwa. ndaa-roh-waa

I've been raped.

Ndabatwa chibharo. ndaa-baa-twaa chee-ba-ro

I've been robbed.

Ndabirwa. ndaa-bee-rwaa

medical needs

Where's the nearest dentist?

Chiremba wemazino ari pedyo pedyo ari kupi? chee-re-mbaa we-maa-zee-no aa-ree pe-jgo pe-jgo aa-ree koo-pee

Where's the nearest doctor?

Dhokotera ari pedyo pedyo ari kupi? do-ko-te-raa aa-ree pe-jgo pe-jgo aa-ree koo-pee

Where's the nearest pharmacist?

Famasi iri pedyo pedyo iri kupi? faa-maa-see ee-ree pe-jgo pe-jgo ee-ree koo-pee

I need a doctor (who speaks English).

Ndinoda dhokotera (anotaura chiNgezi). ndee-no-d'aa do-ke-te-raa (aa-no-taa-oo-raa chee-nge-zee)

Could I see a female doctor?

Ndingaonawo dhokotera wechikadzi here? ndee-ngaa-o-naa-wo do-ko-te-raa we-chee-kaa-dzee he-re

It hurts here.

Panorwadza ndapapa. paa-no-rwaa-dzaa ndaa-paa-paa

I'm allergic to (penicillin).

Muviri wangu unosema (penesirini). moo-vee-ree waa-ngoo oo-no-se-maa (pe-ne-see-ree-nee)

english–shona dictionary

In this dictionary, words are marked as **n** (noun), **a** (adjective), **v** (verb), **sg** (singular), **pl** (plural), **inf** (informal) and **pol** (polite) where necessary.

A

accommodation *pokurara* po-koo-raa-raa
adaptor *adhaputa* aa-daa-poo-taa
after *musure* moo-soo-re
airport *nhandare yendege* nhaa-ndaa-re ye-nde-ge
alcohol *hwahwa* hwaa-hwaa
all *-ose* -o-se
allergy *rusemo* roo-se-mo
and *na* -naa-
ankle *zisa regumbo* zee-so-re goo-mbo
antibiotics *mapiritsi okudzivirira* maa-pee-ree-tsee o-koo-dzee-vee-ree-raa
arm *ruoko* roo-o-ko
asthma *asima* a-see-maa
ATM *ATM* ay-tee-em

B

baby *muchche* moo-che-che
back (body) *musana* moo-saa-naa
backpack *nhava yokumusana* nhaa-vaa yo-koo-moo-saa-naa
bad *-ipa* -ee-paa
baggage claim *kunotorwa mabhegi* koo-no-to-rwaa maa-be-gee
bank *bhangi* baa-ngee
bathroom *imba yokugezera* ee-mbaa yo-koo-ge-ze-ra
battery *bhatiri* baa-tee-ree
beautiful *kunaka* koo-naa-kaa
bed *mubhedha* moo-be-daa
beer *doro* do-ro
bees *nyuchi* nyoo-chee
before *pasure* paa-soo-re
bicycle *bhasikoro* baa-see-ko-ro
big *-kuru* -koo-roo
blanket *jira* jee-raa
blood group *chikamu cheropa* chee-kaa-moo che-ro-paa
bottle *bhodhoro* bo-do-ro
bottle opener *chivhuro chebhodhoro* chee-vhoo-ro che-bo-do-ro
boy *mukomana* moo-ko-maa-naa
brakes (car) *mabhureki* maa-boo-re-kee
breakfast *bhurekifasi* boo-re-kee-faa-see
bronchitis *chirwere chemapapu* chee-rwe-re che-maa-paa-pu

C

café *kafe* kaa-fe
cancel *kanzura* kaa-nzoo-raa
can opener *chivhuro chegaba* chee-vhoo-ro che-gaa-b'aa
cash *n keshi* ke-shee
cell phone *serifoni* se-ree-fo-nee
centre *n pakati* paa-kaa-tee
cheap *chipa* chee-paa
check (bill) *cheki* che-kee
check-in *n pokuchekaini* po-koo-che-kaa-ee-nee
chest *chipfuva* chee-pfoo-vaa
child *mwana* mwaa-naa
cigarette *mudzanga* moo-dzaa-ngaa
city *guta* goo-taa
clean *a chena* che-naa
closed *vharwa* vhaa-rwaa
cold *a -tonhara* -to-nho-raa
collect call *rivhesi chaji* ree-ve-see chaa-jee
condom *kondomu* ko-ndo-moo
constipation *kupatirwa* koo-paa-tee-rwaa
contact lenses *makondakiti renzi* maa-ko-ndaa-kee-tee re-nzee
cough *n -kosora* -ko-so-raa
currency exchange *kuchinjirwa kwemari* koo-chee-njee-waa kwe-maa-ree
customs (immigration) *kupinda nokubuda* koo-pee-ndaa no-koo-b'oo-d'aa

D

dairy products *zvine mukaka* zvee-ne moo-ka-ka
dangerous *-ne ngazi* -ne ngo-zee
date (time) *musi we (nguva)* moo-see we (ngoo-vaa)
day *zuva* zoo-vaa
diaper *napukeni* naa-poo-ke-nee
diarrhoea *manyoka* maa-nyo-kaa
dinner *zvokudya* zo-koo-jgaa
dirty *tsvina* tsvee-naa
disabled *chikoshwa* chee-ko-shaa
double bed *mubhedha wevanhu vaviri* moo-be-daa we-vaa-nhoo vaa-vee-ree
drink *n chokunwa* cho-koo-nwaa
drivers licence *raisenzi yemotokari* raa-ee-se-nzee ye-to-kaa-ree
drug (illicit) *dhiragi* dee-raa-gee

E

ear *nzeve* nze-ve
 east *madokero* maa-do-ke-ro
 economy class *mbhombhera* mbo-mbe-raa
 elevator *rifuti* ree-foo-tee
 email *n imeri* ee-me-ree
 English (language) *chiNgezi* chee-nge-zee
 exchange rate *reti yokochinja mari*
 re-tee yo-ko-chee-njaa maa-ree
 exit *n pokubuda napo* po-koo-b'oo-d'aa naa-po
 expensive *-dhura* -doo-raa
 eye *ziso* zee-so

F

fast *-kurumidza* -koo-roo-mee-dzaa
 fever *hosha* ho-shaa
 finger *munwe* moo-nwe
 first-aid kit *bhokisi refesiti eidhi*
 bo-kee-see re-fe-see-tee e-ee-dee
 first class *kutopa* koo-to-paa
 fish *n hove* ho-ve
 food *kudya* koo-jgaa
 foot *tsoka* tso-kaa
 fork *foroko* fo-ro-kaa
 free (of charge) *mahara* ma-haa-raa
 fruit *muchero* moo-che-ro
 funny *-setsa* -se-tsaa

G

game park *gemupaki* maa-ge-moo-paa-kee
 gift *chipo* chee-po
 girl *musikana* moo-see-kaa-naa
 glass (drinking) *girazi* gee-rra-zee
 glasses *magirazi* ma-gee-rra-zee
 gluten *-rembuka* -re-mboo-kaa
 good *-naka* -na-kaa
 gram *giramu* gee-rra-moo
 guide *n mutungamiriri* moo-too-ngaa-mee-ree-ree

H

hand *ruoko* roo-o-ko
 happy *-fara* -faa-raa
 have *-ne* -ne
 he *a-* aa-
 head *musoro* moo-so-ro
 headache *kutemwa nemusoro* koo-te-mwaa ne-moo-so-ro
 heart *moyo* mo-yo

heart condition *chirwere chemoyo* chee-rwe-re che-mo-yo
 heat *n kudziya* koo-dzee-yaa
 here *pano* paa-no
 high *-refu* -re-foo
 highway *mugwagwa* moo-gwaa-gwaa
 homosexual *n ngochani* ngo-chaa-nee
 homosexual *a hungochani* hoo-ngo-chaa-nee
 hot *-pisa* -pee-saa
 hungry *-ne nzara* -ne nzaa-raa

I

I *Ini* ee-nee
 identification (card) *chitupa* chee-too-paa
 ill *-rwara* -rwaa-raa
 important *-koshu* -ko-shaa
 internet *Indaneti* ee-ndaa-ne-tee
 interpreter *muturikiri* moo-too-ree-kee-ree

K

key *kiyi* kee-yee
 kilogram *kirogiramu* kee-ro-gee-rra-moo
 kitchen *imba yokubikira* ee-mbaa yo-koo-b'ee-kee-rra
 knife *banga* b'aa-ngaa

L

laundry (place) *imba yokuwachira*
 ee-mbaa yo-koo-waa-chee-rra
 lawyer *gweta* gwe-taa
 left-luggage office *pahofisi panosiwa nhumbi*
 paa-ho-fee-see pa-no-see-ee-waa nhoo-mbee
 leg *gumbo* goo-mbo
 lesbian *n ngochani* ngo-chaa-nee
 lesbian *a hungochani* hoo-ngo-chaa-nee
 less *hafuka* haa-foo-ka
 letter (mail) *tsamba* tsaa-mbaa
 like *v -da* -d'aa
 lost-property office
 pahofisi panochengetedzwa zvakarasisika
 paa-hof-ee-see paa-no-che-nge-te-dzwa
 zva-kaa-raa-see-kaa
 love *v -da* -daa
 lunch *ranji* raa-njee

M

man *murume* moo-roo-me
 matches *machisi* maa-chee-see
 meat *nyama* nyaa-maa

medicine *mushonga* moo-sho-ngaa
 message *shoko* sho-ko
 mobile phone *serifoni* se-ree-fo-nee
 month *mwedzi* mwe-dzee
 morning *mangwanani* ma-ngwaa-naa-nee
 motorcycle *mudhudhuhu* moo-doo-doo-doo
 mouth *muromo* moo-ro-mo
 movie *firimu* fee-ree-moo
 MSG *MSG* em-es-jee
 museum *muziyamu* moo-zee-ya-moo
 music *mumanzi* moo-maa-nzee

N

name *n zita* zee-taa
 napkin *napukeni* naa-poo-ke-nee
 nappy *mutambo* moo-taa-mbo
 national park *neshinari paki* ne-shee-naa-ree paa-kee
 nausea *chisvoto* chee-swo-to
 neck *huro* hoo-ro
 new *-tsva* -tsvaa
 news *nha* nha-oo
 newspaper *bepanhau* be-paa-nha-oo
 night *usiku* oo-see-koo
 nightclub *naiti kirabhu* na-ee-tee kee-rra-bu
 noisy *ruzha* roo-zha
 nonsmoking *hapaputirwi fodya*
 haa-paa-poo-tee-rwee fo-jgaa
 north *maodzanyemba* ma-o-dzaa-nye-mbaa
 nose *mhino* m-hee-no
 now *ikozvino* ee-ko-zvee-no
 number *nhamba* nhaa-mbaa
 nuts *nzungu* nzoo-ngoo

O

oil (engine) *airi* o-ee-ree
 OK *okeyi* o-ke-yee
 old *tsaru* tsaa-roo
 open *a vhurika* vho-ree-kaa
 outside *panze* paa-nze

P

package *pakeji* paa-ke-jee
 pain *chirwadzo* chee-rwaa-dzo
 palace *dzimbabwe* dzee-mbaa-bwe
 paper *bepa* b'e-paa
 park (car) *v -paka* -paa-kaa
 passport *pasipoti* paa-see-po-tee
 pay *-bhadhara* -baa-daa-raa
 pen *chinyoreso* chee-nyo-re-so

petrol *peturo* pe-tu-ro
 pharmacy *famasiri* faa-maa-see
 plate *ndiro* ndee-ro
 postcard *positikadhi* po-see-tee-kaa-dee
 post office *hofisi yetsamba* ho-fee-see ye-tsaa-mbaa
 pregnant *-ne nhumbu* -ne moo-mboo

R

rain *n mvura* mvoo-ra
 registered mail *tsamba yaka rejisitwa*
 tsaa-mbaa yaa-kaa re-jee-see-tee-waa
 rent *v -renda* -re-ndaa
 repair *v -gadzira* -gaa-dzee-rra
 reservation *kurizevha* koo-ree-ze-vhaa
 restaurant *resitorendi* re-see-to-re-ndee
 return *v -dzoka* -dzo-kaa
 road *mugwagwa* moo-gwaa-gwaa
 room *imba* ee-mbaa

S

sad *-suruvara* -soo-roo-vaa-raa
 safe *a banya* baa-nyaa
 sanitary napkin *chidhende* chee-de-nde
 seafood *chokudya chomumvura*
 cho-koo-jgaa cho-moo-mvoo-raa
 seat *chigaro* chee-gaa-ro
 send *-tuma* -too-maa
 (have) sex *-svirana* -swee-rra-naa
 shampoo *shambu* shaa-mboo
 share (a dorm, etc) *kusheya* koo-she-yya
 shaving cream *kirimu yokushevha*
 kee-ree-moo yo-koo-she-vhaa
 she *a-* aa-
 sheet (bed) *shiti (bhedha)* shee-tee (be-daa)
 shirt *hembe* he-mbe
 shoes *shangu* shaa-ngoo
 shop *n chitoro* chee-to-ro
 shower *n shawa* shaa-waa
 skin *ganda* gaa-ndaa
 skirt *siketi* see-ke-tee
 sleep *v -rara* -raa-raa
 small *-diki* -d'ee-kee
 smoke (cigarettes) *v -puta* -poo-taa
 soap *sipo* see-po
 some *-mwe* -mwe
 soon *iko zvino* ee-ko zvee-no
 sore throat *-karakata* -kaa-raa-kaa-taa
 south *chamhembe* chaa-mhe-mbe
 souvenir shop *chitoro chesuvheniya*
 chee-to-ro che-soo-vhe-nee-yya

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speak -*taura* -taa-oo-*raa*
spoon *chipunu* chee-poo-noo
stamp n *chitambi* chee-taa-mbee
station (train) *chiteshi chechitima*
 chee-te-shee che-chee-tee-maa
stomach *dumbu* d'oo-mboo
stop v -*mira* -mee-*raa*
stop (bus) n *chiteshi chebhazi* chee-te-shee che-baa-zee
street *mugwagwa* moo-gwaa-gwaa
student *mudzidzi* moo-dzee-dzee
sunscreen *mafuta okudzivirira zuva*
 maa-foo-taa o-koo-dzee-vee-ree-*raa* zoo-*vaa*
swim v -*shambira* -shaa-mbee-*raa*

T

tampons *matambuni* maa-taa-mboo-nee
teeth *mazino* maa-zee-no
telephone n *foni* fo-nee
television *terevhizhini* te-re-vhee-zhee-nee
temperature (weather) *temburicha* te-mboo-ree-*cha*
tent *tende* te-nde
that (one) *icho* ee-cho
they (lit: people) *ivo* ee-vo
thirsty -*ne nyota* -ne nyo-taa
this (one) *ichi* ee-chee
throat *huro* hoo-ro
ticket *tikiti* tee-kee-tee
time *nguva* ngoo-*vaa*
tired -*neta* -ne-taa
tissues *matishu* maa-tee-shoo
today *nhasi* nhaa-see
toilet *chimbudzi* chee-mboo-dzee
tonight *usiku hwuno* oo-see-koo hwoo-no
toothache *kurwadza kwezino* koo-rwaa-dza kwe-zee-no
toothbrush *bhurashi remazino* boo-raa-shee re-maa-zee-no
toothpaste *mushonga wemazino*
 moo-sho-ngaa we-maa-zee-no
torch (flashlight) *tochi* to-chee
tourist office *hofisi yetuwarizimu*
 ho-fee-see ye-too-waa-ree-zee-moo
towel *tauro* taa-oo-ro
translate -*turikira* -too-ree-kee-*raa*
travel agency *tiraveri ajendi* tee-*raa*-ve-ree aa-je-ndee
travellers *cheque macheki okufambisa*
 maa-che-kee o-koo-faa-mbee-saa
trousers *mabhurukwa* maa-boo-roo-kwaa

twin beds *imba ine mibhedha miviri*
 ee-mba ee-ne mee-be-daa mee-vee-ree
tyre *taya* taa-yaa

U

underwear *nduwe* ndoo-we
urgent *kukurumidza* koo-koo-roo-mee-dzaa

V

vacant *pane nzvimbo* paa-ne nvee-mbo
vegetable n *muriwo* moo-ree-wo
vegetarian a *muvhajiteriyeni* moo-vhe-jee-te-ree-ye-nee
visa *vhiza* vhee-zaa

W

waiter *hweta* hwe-taa
walk v -*famba* -faa-mbaa
wallet *chikwama* chee-kwaa-maa
warm a -*dziya* -dzee-yaa
wash (something) -*geza* -ge-zaa
watch n *wachi* waa-chee
water *mvura* mvoo-*raa*
 we *ti*-tee-
weekend *hwikendi* hwee-ke-ndee
west *madokero* maa-d' o-ke-ro
wheelchair *hwiricheya* hwee-ree-che-yaa
when *rini* ree-nee
where (at what place) *papi* paa-pee
where (in what place) *mupi* moo-pee
where (to where) *kupi* koo-pee
who *ani* aa-nee
why *sei* se-ee
window *hwindo* hwee-ndo
wine *waini* waa-ee-nee
with *ne*-
without -*sina* -see-naa
woman *mukadzi* moo-kaa-dzee
write *nyora* nyo-*raa*

Y

you sg inf/pol *iwe/imi* ee-we/ee-mee
you pl inf&pol *imi* ee-mee

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