

English Phonemes vs Icibemba Phonemes

Grp	Same	Diff	New	Key Word	Additional notes
1	s			sun	
	a			ant	/u/ and /a/ often get confused
	t			tin	
		i		ink	/i/ and /ee/ often get confused
	p			pot	
	n			nest	
2		c		can	Same sound as /k/, c is /ch/ in Icibemba
	k			kick	Same sound as /c/
		e		egg	Shorter in English – in Icibemba e is similar to /ai/
			h	hut	
			r	rat	/l/ and /r/ can get confused – think about tongue position
	m			man	
	d		dog	Only present in Icibemba when preceded by letter n (nd)	
3	g			get	
	o			on	
		u		up	/u/ and /a/ often get confused; pronounced /oo/ in Icibemba
	l			left	/l/ and /r/ get confused – think about tongue position
	f			flag	
	b	b		bag	There is a soft and strong b [strong when preceded by m]
4			ai	rain	Same as the letter name 'A'; pronounced /ie/ in Icibemba
			j	jam	Only present in Icibemba when preceded by n (nj)
			oa	oat	Same as the letter name 'O'
			ie	pie	Same as the letter name 'I'
			ee	bee	Same as the letter name 'E'
			or	corn	
5			z	zip	
			w	win	
	ng			ring	Written as ŋ in Icibemba
			v	van	
			oo	book	Very easily mispronounced as /oo/ as in moon.
			oo	moon	
6	y			yes	Only present in Icibemba when preceded by n or f (ny, fy)
			x	box	Pronounced as the ks consonant blend
	ch			chips	Ch is used for proper nouns only in Icibemba.
	sh			shut	
	th			thin	Unvoiced
	th			that	Voiced
7			qu	quick	Same as the kw consonant blend in Icibemba
			ou	out	
			oi	oil	
			ue	due	Same as the letter name 'U'
			er	herb	
			ar	car	