

Honduras, Belize: Garifuna

Garifuna is an unusual language with an tumultuous history. Although it is a member of the Arawakan language family, Garifuna has a very large number of loanwords from other indigenous South American languages as well as French, English and Spanish. Originally spoken on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent, Garifuna is now spoken primarily in mainland Central America.

Buiti binafi means good morning in Garifuna.

Ayó is used say goodbye.



Hello in Garifuna



Goodbye in Garifuna



James Lovell is a musician, storyteller and performing artist, and a passionate supporter of Garifuna culture in the United States. He grew up in Dangriga, the cultural center of Belize. In 1990 he moved to Brooklyn, and that is where he lives today.

Hello in Garifuna



(good morning)

Buítí bináfi

Goodbye in Garifuna



Ayó!