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SMS notices in Portuguese and English: sending each customer the notice in their language

WhatsApp & APIs

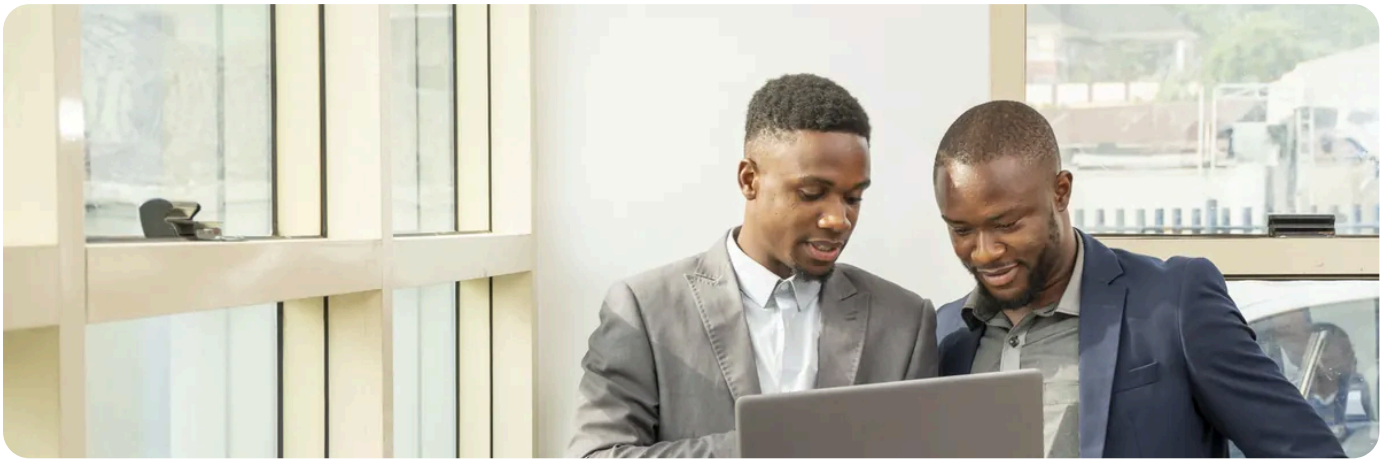
CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-MZ-KB-2702	v2026.11.13	Mozambique · English

Interweb Mozambique
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https://www.meu.interweb.co.mz/knowledgebase/2702

SMS notices in Portuguese and English: sending each customer the notice in their language

WhatsApp & APIs Created on **November 13, 2026** 2 min read



The short answer: the SMS goes out **exactly as you send it**: there is no automatic translation. Store each customer's language, have each notice written in both languages and pick the right text before sending. Mind the cost: Portuguese accents can put a message into Unicode, and English rarely does.

On the SMS page in Meu Interweb

1. **Split your contacts by language** into groups, such as "Customers PT" and "Customers EN". Each contact should be in only one of them.

2. **Keep one template per language** for each notice you repeat: "Lembrete de consulta (PT)" and "Appointment reminder (EN)".

3. **Send or schedule twice**, one send per group, each with its own template.

Through the API

Your system picks the text from the customer's language field and sends it as usual. In a **batch send**, each entry can carry its own text, so one list can hold customers in both languages.

The **Accept-Language** header only changes the language of the API's own messages (errors, for instance), not the SMS the customer receives.

What each language costs

Text	Alphabet	Characters per part
`Reminder: your appointment is tomorrow at 10:00.`	GSM-7	160 in one part; 153 per part if longer

Text	Alphabet	Characters per part
`Lembrete: tem consulta amanhã às 10h00.`	Unicode, because of the "ã"	70 in one part; 67 per part if longer

The same notice can use more credits in Portuguese. The maths is in **how many credits an SMS uses** and, for developers, in **GSM-7 or Unicode in SMS**.

Dropping accents to save money?
You can, but read the result out loud. A word or two is fine, but a text full of words missing their accents looks careless and sometimes suspicious. Shortening the sentence is usually the better fix.

Do not leave language to chance.
Ask for it at sign-up or at the counter, next to the phone number. A customer who reads English and gets a notice in Portuguese may ignore it, and the other way round.

RECOMMENDED

Want to talk to each customer in their own language? See the SMS prices.

See SMS prices →

SEE ALSO

- How many credits an SMS uses: 160, 153, 70 and 67 characters explained →
- GSM-7 or Unicode in SMS: why one accent splits a message into more parts →
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- Notification preferences: letting customers choose which SMS notices they receive →
- Sending many SMS notices in one API request: the batch endpoint and its results →
- SMS contacts and groups: importing a CSV list and keeping it clean →

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