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Accents and special characters in domain names: what is allowed, and what to do instead

Domains & DNS

CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-AO-KB-1798	v2026.10.15	Angola · English

Interweb Angola
RLX Angola, Lda. · Group RLX Holdings
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https://www.meu.interweb.ao/knowledgebase/1798

The short answer: an ordinary domain name can only contain **the letters a to z without accents, digits and hyphens**. So a name like “cafézinho” or “coração” cannot be written exactly as it is. On our order form we **do not accept names with accents** (the so-called internationalised domains, or IDN), so the way forward is to choose the version without accents.

The rules of a domain name

Rule	Example
Letters a to z, with no accents or cedillas	`coracao.com` yes; `coração.com` no, on our form.
Digits are allowed	`shop24.com`
Hyphen in the middle, never at the start or end	`my-shop.com` yes; `-myshop.com` no.
No spaces or symbols (such as _ or &)	`my shop.com` no.
Up to 63 characters before the extension	But short sells more: see **How to choose the right domain**.
Upper and lower case count the same	`MyShop.com` and `myshop.com` are the same address.

What to do when the name has accents

1. **Write the version without accents** (“cafezinho”, “coracao”). It is the one people end up using to type the address, and it works on any device.

2	**Check whether the word changes meaning without the accent.** If it does, choose another name or add a word: **The domain you want is taken**.

3	**Put the proper name, with accents, on the site** (in the title, the logo, the text). The address is what gets typed; the brand can have accents freely.

4	**Also register the alternative version** if both are plausible and the business justifies it (for example, with and without a hyphen), and point one to the other: **301 redirects**.

Beware of “addresses with accents” you see written in ads. Some are graphic forms, and the real address is another. Before paying for a name, always confirm how it is typed on a keyboard. And think of whoever will dictate it over the phone: if you have to spell out an accent, that is a bad sign.

In Portuguese the name most often works fine without the accents, because that is how people type it in the browser bar. For your pages’ names the rules are similar: see **Internal links**.

Have a name in mind with accents and not sure how to write it? Open a ticket with the name and say what the business does.

Open a support ticket

SEE ALSO

How to choose the right domain for your business

The domain you want is already taken: what you can do, and what to avoid

A .com or a country domain: which one should you register

Typo in the domain name: can it be fixed after registering?

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