

Localize a Download Without Breaking It

Keep meaning, files and revisions aligned across a small
product release

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SAMPLE EDITION

ENGLISH / 1.0 / 2026

How to use this guide

Independent creators adapting an original downloadable product into another language.

An English workbook with original English and Turkish habit-card examples, a deliberately faulty translation file, repair decisions and a reproducible release-parity check.

- Separate product facts from translatable wording.
- Detect missing keys, changed placeholders and unapproved promises.
- Prepare a localized release record with honest untested areas.

Scope and limitations

- The bilingual examples are teaching material, not a professionally certified translation.
- This English book supplies source strings and review fixtures, not a finished commercial habit-card product.
- Automated checks do not establish cultural suitability, typography, accessibility or translation quality.
- No marketplace upload, customer experiment or legal localization review is performed.

Published by KitForma. Edition 1.0. Sources checked 1 October 2026. People and businesses in worked examples are fictional. This is an independent publication, not endorsed by the platforms mentioned.

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01

Start with the product that actually exists

A translated title is only one visible part of a localized download. The buyer also encounters filenames, examples, instructions, page labels, dates and the description that explains what was purchased. If those parts disagree, fluent sentences cannot rescue the experience. Begin by defining the unchanged product in plain language. What does the buyer receive, what can they edit, and which task can they complete? Keep those facts somewhere other than the advertising copy so a persuasive rewrite cannot quietly become a product change.

Our fictional product is Harbor Habit Cards, a set of seven short prompts for reflecting on a daily routine. The learning files in this workbook contain its text resources and release records. They do not contain a completed card design or a tested printable PDF. The product brief specifies an undated, print-and-write concept, with no interactive form fields and no medical or behavioral outcome promise. Both language versions must retain those boundaries. A translation that introduces reminders or automatic tracking is wrong even if every sentence sounds natural.

Choose a small first language pair. This workbook uses English source strings and Turkish examples so you can inspect real character and wording differences without pretending to cover every language. The method also applies elsewhere, but right-to-left composition, unfamiliar scripts and region-specific conventions need their own reviewers and layout tests. Do not label an unreviewed version globally suitable. A narrow release that tells buyers exactly what they get is easier to support than a large language menu built from unchecked text.

Create a facts sheet before opening a translation service. Record seven cards, undated use, manual writing, source revision and the absence of fillable fields. Give each fact a stable name and a review owner. The exercise owner is fictional; your real release needs someone able to make decisions. When a translator asks whether the cards can be edited, consult this sheet. Do not infer permission or capability from an image, a competitor's listing or a wish for a stronger sales message.

Sources and tools

[S1] W3C internationalization quick tips

<https://www.w3.org/International/quicktips/>

Checked: 2026-10-01

[S2] Unicode Standard Annex 15: Normalization Forms

<https://www.unicode.org/reports/tr15/>

Checked: 2026-10-01

Unicode inspector

Inspect characters when two strings look alike but compare differently.

<https://kitforma.com/en/unicode-inspector/>

Text difference

Review approved text changes without treating a difference as an error.

<https://kitforma.com/en/text-diff/>

Digital delivery pack

Organize reviewed release files; separately verify the final contents.

<https://kitforma.com/en/digital-delivery-pack/>

Inside the complete guide

Give each piece of meaning a stable key

Protect variables and product facts

Treat dates and quantities as decisions

Keep characters intact without flattening meaning

Reserve space for wording that grows

Review the complete localized experience

Package versions that can be traced

Capstone: repair the Harbor resources

Make the next update cheaper