

SAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE Fa/1997/98
Heritage College, Toppenish, WA 98948
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KEY TO THE SAHAPTIN ALPHABET

CONSONANTS

Most Sahaptin consonants are written and sound the same as English with the exception of special front, soft back, and hard sounds. The following are examples for the English-letter consonants, and manner of pronunciation.

| <u>Symbols used to represent sound</u> | | <u>Example of words</u> |
|--|--------------|---|
| 1. p | soft -p | ipap 'hand', niipt 'two', pipsh 'bone |
| 2. k | soft -k | kuukit 'cook', kakya 'bird, kwyaaam, true |
| 3. t | soft -t | tutik 'stand up, timash 'paper' tun 'what' |
| 4. l | ell | lamt 'blue' lul'uu 'smooth' l'ulu 'milk' |
| 5. m | em | maysx 'tomorrow, miimi 'long time ago' |
| 6. n | en | naxsh 'one', nusux 'salmon', nmi 'mine' |
| 7. h | aich | huli 'wind, haasht 'breath, spirit. |
| 8. w | double-u | wa'na'river', wata'm 'lake', waw'a 'mosquito |
| 9. y | why | yapaash 'grease', wiyat 'far away' yaax 'relax' |
| 10. s | ess | sinwit 'talk, speak', saplil 'bread', saylips 'liver' |
| 11. ch | see-aitch | chaw 'no', chiish 'water', chmuk 'black' |
| 12. sh | -aitch | shushaynsh 'steelhead trout', ishay 'worm' |
| 13. ts | soft tee-ess | maytski 'morning', tsa'at 'soon, right away' |

Short example how to write sentences

1. Niipt nash wa ipap-ipap. I have two hands.
2. Kwyaam nam kuukita likuuk kakya. Be sure that you cook the chicken bird.
Literal translation: Make sure you cook the chicken.
3. Tun nam naktutisha, timash? What are you standing there with, paper?
Literal translation: What are you standing there (and holding), paper?
Third translation: What are you introducing in the document.?
4. Lu'lu i-xa'yaxta lul'uu, lataampa. The milk spilled on the
smooth, table.
5. Miimi Nch'inch'ima pa-timnanaxin-xana maysxmaysx.
Long time ago the old people used to tell stories everyday.

SAHAPTIN CONSONANTS NOT FOUND IN ENGLISH

September 2, 1997 Virginia Beavert, Heritage College, Toppenish, WA 98948

Although we use letters used in English, the combination of symbols and letters make special sounds in sahaptin.

Symbols to represent sound

Examples of words containing sounds

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| x | front-ex | iwiix 'thin';(This sound is seldom found in the beginning of a word. Linguists used the letter 'h' to make this sound. In Sahaptin the front-ex is found in many parts of speech. |
| <u>x</u> | back-ex | <u>xatxat</u> 'mallard duck'; nus<u>x</u> 'salmon' are two examples.(This is a guttural sound made by raising back of tongue(velum) until it nearly closes and let the air escape as though you are bringing up phlegm. |
| l | barred-ell | lmama 'old woman'; apilapil 'leaves on a tree'; This sound is called a lateral voiceless ell. Your tongue is placed behind your front teeth and you blow air out softly from both side of your mouth. The sound is like a 'juicy-rattle'. |
| tl' | hard tee-ell (unvoiced) | tl'aaxw 'all'; tl'ap 'junk, throw-away'. This sound vibrates. It makes a <u>flapping</u> sound when your tongue touches the roof of the mouth. |
| tl | tee-barred-ell (voiced) | tlup 'jump'; tltlum<u>x</u> 'Red-wing black bird'; is a combination of soft-t and barred ell. |
| ts | soft-tee-ess | tsulim 'buffalo'; tsimti 'new; tsawktsawk 'redhot' |
| ts' | hard-tee-ess | ts'i 'sweet';ts'its'ums 'boil, a skin infection'; sts'at 'nighttime';ts'iilil 'round circle'. |
| <u>k</u> | soft back-k | <u>iku</u> 'heavy weight'; mayts<u>ki</u> 'early morning' <u>kayli</u> 'hard-sole shoe'; twisk<u>ka</u> 'robin(bird). This sound is made in back of the throat with the mouth open. Imagine how a crow makes the sound of "caw caw" except the sound is made in back of throat. |

THE KEY TO THE NORTHWEST SAHAPTIN ALPHABET
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FA97/98 INTRODUCTION TO GRAMMAR
8/12/97

A common noun names a person, place, or thing.

Underline below each common noun.

1. Aswan mi anwikt-a-pawiya-kyuu-sha ichna lkw'i-pa.
2. Pinmink pat ku pcha a-kuuki-sha tkwatat sitkumsaanitay.
3. Paxnaaw amiisma pa'aniya pashk'ishish.
4. Pt'ilima pa'awshnika lataam ku pa-ptuk-a tikay-tikay.
5. Tiinma pa-wisha-chika pit'xanuk-knik
6. Napu awinshin panachika aykawaas-aykawaas iniit-knik.
7. Pshit aswan-mi anachika pilxu nusux.
8. Miyanashma paskawya ilkwaas tamaktay nusux.
9. Naxsh wiyawawi-la iwinsh itamaka nusux.
10. Kanakitpa pat anachikanya kiiks ku atawish aswan nan.

VOCABULARY

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Aswan | boy | anwikt-pawiyakuyt | birthday |
| pit' <u>x</u> anuk | mountain | tikay-tikay | dishes |
| Pat | older sister | tiinma | people |
| Pcha | mother | awinshin | (two) men |
| tkwatat | food | aykawaas | chair |
| sitkumsaanit | lunch | aykawaas-aykawaas | chairs |
| amiisma | boys | nus <u>ux</u> | salmon |
| pash <u>k'</u> ishit | arbor/shade | Pshit | father |
| lataam | dinner table | kiiks | cake |
| takay | dinner plate | atawish | present |

NORTHWEST SAHAPTIN KEY TO THE ALPHABET

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8/12/97

VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGS IN SAHAPTIN

The key to the alphabet which appears on the following pages is meant to be used along with the tapes or native speaker of the Sahaptin language, to say the words, given in the examples, by sounding each letter or letter group it represents.

Some letters or letter combinations (like x, x, l, tl', tl, k', k, k', kw', kw', xw, xw) represents sounds not found in the English language. For these special sounds an explanation is given and demonstrated how these sounds are made. The best way to learn to make these sounds correctly is to listen to your instructor, and imitate to the best of your ability. Listen to the cassette tape and practice the sounds as often as possible, and the speech sounds will come more easily. Combines with pronouncing the letters and mimicry(listening and repeating) the student will learn to spell and write down the words used in the examples.

Listening, speaking, spelling, writing, is a requirement for this language class.

Vowels and Diphthongs

Symbols used for vowels

Examples containing the sounds

| | | |
|----|------------|---|
| a | | akak 'goose'; wa'na 'river' |
| aa | long-a | taaminwa 'always'; kaatnam 'long measurement' |
| i | short-eye | ink 'I'; wiyat 'far away'; pipsh 'bone' |
| ii | long-eye | iniit 'house'; tiicham 'land, earth' |
| i | barred-eye | iwinsh 'man'; im 'mouth'; a'shim 'come inside' |
| u | short-you | utpaas 'robe'; ushyaksh 'socks, stockings' |
| uu | long-you | chchuu 'quiet, be still'; ap'uus 'domestic cat' |

Symbols for diphthongs in Sahaptin

| | | |
|-----|---------------------|---|
| ay | short a-y diphthong | ayi'k 'sit down'; ay'ay 'magpie' |
| aay | long a-y " | <u>xaayx</u> 'all night'; <u>kaayx</u> 'bright light' |
| uy | short u-y " | anahuy 'black bear'; uyt "in the beginning' |
| uuy | long u-y " | puuy 'snow'; huuy 'scarcely, hard to do' |
| iw | short eye double-u | kiwkiwlaas 'drum'; wiwnu 'huckleberry' |
| iiw | long eye double-u | piwnash 'extended iiwsh 'urine' |

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III. Continuation of hard sounds in Sahaptin.

| <u>Symbols to represent sound</u> | | <u>Examples of word containing sounds</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| k' | hard front-k | k'usi 'horse'; k'pis 'cold'; k'piit 'round'; this sound is a 'clicking' sound, made middle of mouth. |
| <u>k'</u> | hard back-k | <u>k'ixli</u> 'tule mat'; <u>k'ishpali</u> "buzzard(bird)"; <u>k'inu</u> 'to see'; Wanak<u>it</u> 'Monday'; <u>lk'am</u> moccasin'. This is a guttural sound, made in back of throat. |
| kw | soft-kw | kwiikw- 'whistle'; kwyaaam 'ikwna 'over there'; ilksh 'fire'; shay'kw ' star cluster'. |
| kw | hard front -kw | lkw'i 'day'; skw'ipa 'morning time'; kw'ipama 'woman's 'underslip/skirt' |