

SAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE Fa/1997/98
 Heritage College, Toppenish, WA 98948
 Virginia Beavert, Developer-Instructor

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, truee
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	ess-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 was 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?
4. Lu'lu i-xa'yaxta lul'uu, lamt, lataampa. The milk spilled on the
 smooth, blue, table.
5. Miimi Nch'inch'ima pa-timnanaxin-xana maysxmaysx.
 Long time ago the old people used to tell stories everyday.

NORTHWEST SAHAPTIN KEY TO THE ALPHABET
Virginia Beavert. Developer-Instructor
Heritage College, Toppenish, WA 98948

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</u> 'ixli 'tule mat'; <u>k</u> 'ishpali "buzzard(bird)"; <u>k</u> 'inu 'to see'; Wanak'it 'Monday'; <u>lk</u> 'am moccasin'. This is a guttural sound, made in back of throat.
kw	soft-kw	kwiikw- 'whistle'; kwyaam 'truthful'; I'kwna 'over there'; ilkwsh 'fire'; shay'kw ' star cluster'.
kw	hard front -kw	lkw'I 'day'; skw'ipa 'morning time'; kw'ipama 'woman's 'underslip/skirt'
<u>kw</u>	soft back-kw	<u>kwn</u> in <u>kwn</u> inla 'backpacker, hobo'; <u>kwalk</u> wal ' turkey'; <u>k</u> waat 'fixed, embedded'.
<u>kw</u> '	hard back-k-w	<u>kw</u> 'ash <u>kw</u> 'ash 'heron';sh <u>kw</u> 'iyumk-'haircut'
ch	soft-see-aich	chaw 'no';chiish,chuush, 'water';chaynach 'newly wed man'/married man';
ch'	hard-see-aich	nch'i 'large size';ch'im 'sharp point/razor-sharp'; chich'iw 'cattail plant'.
p	soft-p	pinush 'gooseberry';pipsh 'bone';paysh 'maybe'. perhaps'.
p'	hard-p	p'ip'I 'intestines'; ip'uus 'domestic cat'; p'ushtay 'land prominence, hill'. This letter is usually

referred to as the "popped-p" because the lips are closed and air blown through to make a 'popped' sound. Practice saying these words constantly at home with your family and friends. Listen to the tapes, and take trips to the mountains, take your children and point out the colors, name of plants and trees, animals, birds, terrain. Teach some body to say the words you have learned. This is the only way to retain the lessons you have learned in class. Read the lessons to others, and accept their critique, and don't feel offended because there are different dialects.

SAHAPTIN CONSONANTS NOT FOUND IN ENGLISH

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

<u>Symbols to represent sound</u>	<u>Examples of words containing sounds</u>
x front-ex	iwiiix '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.
ɬ barred-ell	ɬmama 'old woman'; apɬapɬ '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'.
tɬ' hard tee-ell	tɬ'aaxw 'all'; tɬ'ap 'junk, throw-away'. This sound vibrates. It makes a <u>flapping</u> sound when your tongue touches the roof of the mouth.
tɬ tee-barred-ell	tɬup 'jump'; tɬtɬum <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	iku 'heavy weight'; maytski '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.