

SAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE 102/109
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3-2-00 REVIEW LESSONS

Review diphthongs:

Short a~y diphthong Sahaptin is like the long /i/ sound in English, as in the word *python*. Say the word "*python*" several times and then say "*paysh*" in Sahaptin several times. Can you distinguish the same short /ai/ sound? A python is a huge snake tropical snake.

Long aa~y diphthong Sahaptin sound is equivalent to the English diphthongs in the words '*buy*', '*tie*'. Say these words several times to compare the sounds. Say '*yaay*' and '*buy*' several times.

Short u~y diphthong in Sahaptin is equivalent to the English diphthong /oy/ as in '*toy*'. Say the word '*ts'muy*' and '*anahuy*' several times, and compare it with '*toy*'.

Long uu~y Sahaptin diphthong is a sound like in the German word *führen*. Say the word *puuy* in Sahaptin, and then say the German word several times. Or you can say the American expletive '*phooy*' to compare this sound with '*puuy*'.

Short a~w diphthong in Sahaptin '*awna*' may sound like English '*pound*', or some other word you might suggest.

Long aa~w diphthong in Sahaptin word '*chaaw*' and '*waaw*' may sound like English '*cow*', and the English expletive '*wow!*'.

Short i~w diphthong in the Sahaptin '*tiwi*' fight, might sound like '*peewee*' a slang word to describe someone who is small of stature. Spelling in Sahaptin is important, the English words are to compare the sounds. (the underlined diphthongs are comparative.) There is another word like *tenuous*, *ten-ye-wes*, meaning flimsy.

Long ii~w diphthong in Sahaptin '*iiwsh*' urine, compared with the English word '*cube*' (*kyüb*), or *pew*, a place to sit in church, and *teutonic* (t(y)ü-tän-ik) Germanic.

Spelling in Sahaptin is important. When you write the wrong diphthong the native language, the meaning is changed. example:

When you want to spell /*paysh*/ maybe, and you spell it /*pish*/ it has no meaning. It rhymes with *fish*. Non-speakers of English say /*pish*/ for /*fish*/ because there is no /eff/ sound in the Sahaptin language. This is the reason we have these complicated diphthongs to be used for special sounds in the native language. We are not spelling English.

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