

alphabet

nsəlxcín alphabet
and pronunciation guide

made by omak Language program
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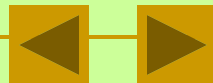
the letter a

- a – sounds like the (a) in father
- anwí – you
- paʔpaʔláʔaʔ – moose
- axáʔ – this



The letter c

- c sounds like the ch in church.
- cawt – way of being, conduct
- ccwíxa? – creek
- uc – would, could



The letter c'

c' sounds like ts in cats.

c'qiln – arrow/bullet

spc'niɬx^w – tent

sʃaʃác' – book/read



The letter ə shwa

- ə sounds like e in the word elephant.
- əcx^wuy – he or she is coming.
- nsəlxcín okanogan language



The letter h

- h as in the word happy.
- hiwt – rat
- huhúy – alright well, ok then



The letter i

i – makes a double ee or ea sound as in week or eat.

ilí? – there

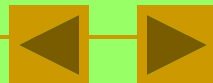
kíkwa? – mother's father

iklí? – over there



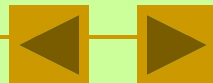
The letter k

- k as in keep.
- kkwápa? – dog
- kilx – hand



The letter k'

- k' is a k pronounced at very back of tongue.
- k'ast – bad
- k'áma? – pine needles
- k'iwlx – old



The letter k^w

k^w is k pronounced with rounded lips

k^w il – red

k^w lcncut – cook

k^w inx – how many/much



The letter k^w

- k^w is pronounced k' with rounded lips.
- k^wiλt – the others
- k^wík^wx^wna? – mouse
- k^wk^wyúma? – small/ little



The letter l

l as in love.

lɪm|əmt – thank you

lɪmt – glad/ happy

lʔiw – boy's father



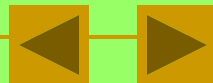
The letter ǃ

- ǃ abruptly stopped I.
- ǃəǂtiws – becoming friends
- sǃaǂt – friend
- sǃəǂǃaǂt – friends



The letter †

- † or barred l, sound is made by forcing air downward on the side of tongue, tip of tongue pressed against back of top teeth.
- †sínca? – little brother
- †ccups – little sister
- †qáqca? – big brother
- †kíkxa? – big sister



The letter ʁ' running man

- ʁ' sounds similar to a tl sound. The sound is made by forcing air downward at side of tongue very quickly, the tip of the tongue is pressed against back of top teeth.
- ʁ'ǎp – grown/ adulthood
- ʁ'íksm – peeking out, just poking out
- ʁ'iʔí – canoe



The letter m

- m as in mom.
- mistm – girl's father
- málěa? – tell a lie/false
- mahúya? – raccoon



The letter m'

- m' an abruptly stopped m
- tum' – girl's mother
- stim' – what



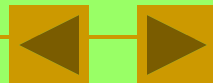
The letter n

- n as in no
- naqs – one
- nʔaʔmut – sit inside
- nak^wm – evidently



The letter **ń**

- **ń** an abruptly stopped n
- **ń**aǎm† – but/however
- **ń**í**ń**wis – later
- **ń**ik'm – cut



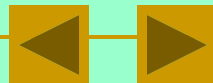
The letter p

- p as in pop.
- pənkín – when?
- put – enough
- písłat – plural big



The letter p̣

- p̣ is an explosive p sound.
- p̣ína? – birch bark basket
- p̣um – brown/ tan color
- p̣úłəm – at the end of something



The letter q

- q is made at top of throat, behind the tongue.
- qána? – baby talk for grandma
- qáqna? – grandmother dad's mom



The letter **q̣**

- **q̣** is made farther down the throat, at the top of adam's apple.
- **q̣**ilqn – headache
- **q̣**ilt – sick
- **q̣**ciƛx^w – log cabin



The letter q^w

- q^w is pronounced q with rounded lips.
- q^wlq^wilt – speak/talk
- q^wáŋsqi? – bluejay
- q^wnq^want – pitiful



The letter q^w

- q^w is pronounced q with rounded lips.
- q^wuct – fat
- q^wliw'm – pick berries
- q^wlam – roast over fire



The letter r

- r as in rat.
- rático – radio
- crís – king fisher
- carsm – motion to someone



The letter **r** glottal r

r a rolled r sound.

yi**r** – round

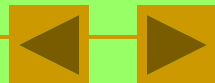
m**r**imtsn – medicine

k**r**am –swim / chop



The letter **s**

- **s** as in sister.
- **s**c'wanáytm – bigfoot
- mu**s** – four
- **s**əsí? – uncle, mother's brother



The letter t

- t as in top.
- táma? – baby talk (grandma)
- stmtíma? –grandma, mother's mom
- tətwít – boy



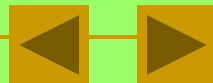
The letter **t'** glottal t

- **t'** is an explosive t sound made right behind top teeth.
- **t'ikt'** – flood
- **t'a?t'ik'** – young men
- **t'wístwi?** – everyone stand up



The letter u

- u makes a double oo sound as in toot.
- ?úlus – gather up
- ?al?úlus – gather up plural
- ?alúsqáǵa? – gather up horses



The letter **w**

- **w** as in walk.
- **w**ik – see/saw
- **w**ikn – I saw him/her
- **w**ikntsn – I saw you
- **w**ikntx^w – you saw him/her
- **w**iks – he/she saw him/her
- **w**ikntm – we saw him/her



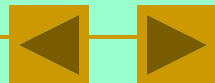
The letter ẃ

- ẃ an abruptly ended w.
- suẃikiʔst – lightning
- sqlaẃ – money/beaver
- sẃaʔ – cougar



The letter x

- x is pronounced slightly farther back than the h sound.
- xatmscút – put self first/go first
- a? cx?it – at first
- ximíx – whatever



The letter x^w x raised w

x^w is the x sound with rounded lips.

x^w umína? – steelhead

x^w u x^w mína? – rainbow trout

x^w ?it – many/alot



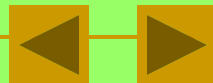
The letter **ǰ** wedge x

- **ǰ** is made near the adam's apple, a hard x sound.
- **ǰ**mink – like/want
- in**ǰ**mink – I like or want
- an**ǰ**mink – you like or want



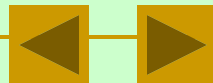
The letter X^w wedge x raised w

- X^w is the sound of X with rounded lips.
- X^w upt – weak
- sn X^w ilmn – garbage can
- X^w aŋt X^w t – duck



The letter y

- y as in year.
- γαλκίς – beach
- γαλατάς – all



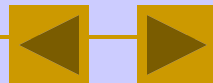
The letter **y'** or glottal y

- **y'** is the **y** sound abruptly ended.
- **wa'y'** – hello, ok, yes, well
- **x̣x̣a'y'** – red hawthorn
- **sm'y'ma'y'** – tell stories



The letter γ gamma

- γ called gamma, a buzzing γ in the back of throat.
- $\gamma\acute{\iota}\mu\varsigma$ – pole at winter dance
- $\varsigma\gamma\acute{\iota}\rho$ – tree/planted post
- $\varsigma\gamma\acute{\iota}\mu$ –weave



The letter ʔ glottal stop

- ʔ a brief pause, to aid in proper pronunciation of a word.
- q^waʔq^waʔál – meeting
- aʔísck' – squirrel
- kaʔtís – three



The letter ʔ pharyngeal

- ʔ makes the a change from fa**th**er, to a**pp**le.
- ʔaymt – mad/angry
- ʔápnaʔ –now
- ʔáyuʔ – chocolate tips



The letter ɣ^w pharyngeal raised w

- ɣ^w , makes the **a** have an **ow** sound.
- $\text{ca}\text{ɣ}^w\text{lx}$ – wash
- $\text{ka}\text{ɣ}^w\text{m}$ – pray
- $\text{snka}\text{ɣ}^w\text{mn}$ – a place to pray

