Apache Alphabet and Pronunciation Guide

Apache Alphabet	Apache Standardized Combinations	Apache Example	International Phonetic Alphabet	English Example
' (glottal stop)	•	ba'	•	"oh-oh" the brief stop at the hyphen
a	•	bigan	a	father
	aa	shitaa'	•	•
	á	masáána	•	•
	ą	gową	•	•
	ą́	nadą́'	•	•
b	•	bán	b	bet
c	ch	chaa	tʃ	church
d	•	diyin	d	day
	dl	dlǫ'	•	pad-dling
	dz	dził	•	adds
e	•	yebik'eh	e	get
	ee	idee'	•	•
	é	bésh	•	•
	ę	bínatsíkęęs	•	•
	ę́	nkę́ę́z	•	•
g	•	gową	g	go
	gh	bigháń	•	•
h	•	hosh	h	hot
	hw	danohwigha	•	what
i	•	shini'	•	police
	ii	chiizh	•	•
	í	díí	•	•

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Apache Alphabet and Pronunciation Guide

Apache Alphabet	Apache Standardized Combinations	Apache Example	International Phonetic Alphabet	English Example
i	į	kįh	•	•
	į́	dį́į́'i	•	•
j	•	bijaa'	dʒ	jam
k	•	kee	k	kick
l	•	iloh	l	lid
ł	•	łįį'	•	well
m	•	mé'	m	man
n	•	nałtsoos	n	not
o	•	ba'cho	o	also
	oo	yoo	•	•
	ó	ałdó'	•	•
	ǫ	nzhǫǫ	•	•
	ǫ́	dǫ́'	•	•
s	•	sis	s	sister
	sh	shash	ʃ	ship
t	•	tazhii	t	tree
	tł	diltłah	•	•
	ts	tsał	•	lots
u	ú	tú	•	toot
w	•	biwos	s	will
y	•	yaak'os	j	yes
z	•	zas	z	zebra
	zh	zhááli	•	azure

Adapted from White Mountain Apache Culture Center [staff], comp., *Western Apache Dictionary*. Fort Apache, AZ: White Mountain Apache Tribe, 1972.

Important Changes in Writing Conventions

Some writing conventions that were used in earlier written works have been changed.

1. Nasalization is not marked when its presence is obvious.

2. The consonant **x** is no longer used. In earlier texts, it was used to distinguish between the phoneme **sh** and cases where one syllable ended in **s** and the next began with an **h** (as in **bizisx̨į**). This combination is now written with a hyphen (**bizis-h̨į**).

3. The hyphen is used when an enclitic such as **-hí** is added to a word ending in **g**, **s**, or **z**, as opposed to the former method of deleting the **h**. Now, instead of writing **dígisíí**, the word will be written **dígis-hí**.

4. The previous example makes a further point of change obvious: the nominalizer will now be written with a single vowel (**-hí**) except in those cases where the double vowel is needed to distinguish meaning, such as in **-níníí** and **-híhíí**.

5. The first part of the verb is often like a prepositional phrase in English: for me/**sháá**, for you/**náá**, on it/**bikáʼ**, etc. Even though prefixes are a part of the whole verb, they can often be written separately, which helps to make the words a bit shorter and easier to read. Where possible, this has been done. Some words, however, like "broom" **benágolzhóhé** (that by means of which sweeping is done) cannot be separated; thus, such terms will be written together with the prefix **bee-** shortened to **be-**.

6. Short forms or contractions of common words have been included. Such entries are followed by the conventional long forms labeled <u>see also</u>. For example: **áíídóʼ (áí aídóʼ)** or **áíwą (áí bighą)**.

Abbreviations and Signs Used in This Dictionary

1.   ✸   certain kinds of objects

   The Apache language uses different verbs to refer to the handling of different categories of objects (for example: long, thick objects or flat, flexible objects). When referring to such an object, the English "it" or "them" or other appropriate pronoun is marked with an asterisk (it*/them*) as in *shańt̨įh* or *shańłtsóós* (give it* to me). The it* in each example refers to a specific kind of object (see pages xxv and xxvi for additional information).

2.   (Two)   dual/two people or actors

   The singular "you" is not marked; when the Apache term refers to the dual "you" (the two of you/you two), it is marked as you (two).

3.   dv   dialect variation

   Naturally, people who speak the same language do not always pronounce each word exactly the same. Western Apache, however, does show distinct differences that are patterned and systematic, with equally correct forms in two major dialects. Dialect variations are indicated in this dictionary by the small "dv" at the end of the particular entry.

4.   ´   high tone

   High tone or stress is applied to the pronunciation of the designated letter.

   Ex.: *báń*

5. -   hyphen

A hyphen after an entry indicates the letter group is a prefix; a hyphen before an entry indicates the letter or letter group is used as a suffix; and hyphens on both sides of the entry indicate the entry is an infix.

6. ̨   nasalization

Nasalization of the vowel is made by most of the air being exhaled through the nose rather than the mouth, as in sounding "m," "n," or "ng" in English.

Ex.: *gow*ą

7. (PL)   plural

Plural forms indicate three or more people or actors; the plural "you" is marked: you (PL).

8. see also   Cross-reference information is listed to indicate variant spellings for short and long forms of the entry word and for synonyms.

9. /   slash

The slash indicates alternative spellings and/or meanings.

10. (SB)   somebody

Verbs may include a pronoun used to indicate indefinite person or persons.

Apache pronouns are not differentiated as to gender, so that a third-person singular pronoun means "he" or "she" or "it" depending on the context. For the sake of simplicity, "he" has been used in the translations except in cases where it is obviously inappropriate.

Ex.: he (SB), they (SB)

11. (ST)   something

              The notation (ST) is used in the same way as
              (SB), but (ST) indicates animal(s) or object(s),
              not person(s).

NOTE: When one is studying grammar and/or prepar-
              ing paradigms and referring to first person,
              second person, third person, etc., the (SB) or
              (ST) is often referred to as a subgroup of third
              person or as fourth person.

WESTERN APACHE-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

A Community-Generated Bilingual Dictionary

Dorothy Bray, editor,

in collaboration with the
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