

PRONUNCIATION HELP FOR NON-APACHE SPEAKERS

It is recommended that one consult a native speaker of the language for refinements of pronunciation.

VOWELS

- a as in father
- e as in bed
- i as in police
- o as in toe varying toward o as in to
(when the sound is definitely as in 'to',
it is spelled with u)

LENGTH:

All of the four vowels above may be short or long, referring to duration of sound, not to difference in quality. Length is indicated by doubling the vowel. When the vowel is single, the sound is so short that the quality is not so pronounced, and the i may sound like i in it. Illustrations of the long and short vowels are given on the vowel chart under The Western Apache Alphabet.

NASALIZATION:

Each of the four vowels may also be nasalized. This is indicated by a hook under the vowel—**ǎ, ɛ̃, ǐ, q̃**. In pronouncing a nasalized vowel, some of the air goes through the nasal passage.

ǎǎ	in	ǎǎ	it is finished
ɛ̃	in	alch'ishé/alts'ísé	little
ǐǐ	in	dǐǐ'i	four
q̃	in	dq̃'	fly

CONSONANTS

No mention will be made here of the consonants which are sounded practically as in English.

' **glottal stop** This might be called the 'hold your breath' or the 'close your glottis' letter. When one says 'oh oh' to a child when he stumbles, the breath is held for an instant between the two 'ohs'. In Apache it would be written **ó'oo**.

ch' **glottalized ch** This is made entirely with mouth air. The mouth is shaped for **ch**, the breath is caught, then released sharply to pronounce the vowel which follows. Try saying **ó'oo**, then **óch'oo**, being sure to close the glottis after the first **ó**.

d, n may be pronounced as **d** or **n** or **nd**, depending on the pronunciation of the speaker. The non-Apache should discover which is the most usual pronunciation in the area where he is.

dl is pronounced as in **padding** with the syllable division—**pa-dling**.

dz This is the sound which ends the word **adds**. One must learn to pronounce it at the beginning of syllables. In the sentence, 'He adds a row of figures', say the **adds a** together, then divide it as **a-dza**.

g is always pronounced as **g** in **get**, never as in **gentle**.

gh is made with the mouth shaped for **g**, but with the back of the tongue not quite touching the roof of the mouth, and air passing between as the vocal chords operate. You will find this written only before **a** in this dictionary. It occurs before the other vowels, but because the mouth is shaped for the vowel, before **e** and **i** it sounds more like a guttural **y**, and is written as **y** for ease in reading. Before **o**, it sounds more like a guttural **w**, so is written as **w**.

h When syllable initial, **h** is sometimes heavily aspirated.

hw is like **wh** in English **what**.

k' **glottalized k** The mouth is shaped for **k**, the breath is caught and then released sharply to pronounce the vowel which follows, as for **ch'**.

kw is like **qu** in **quit**.

l **silent l** The mouth is shaped for **l**, but the vocal chords are not used. The sound is made by the air blown out both sides of the tongue.

t' **glottalized t** The mouth is shaped for **t**, the breath is caught, then released sharply to pronounce the vowel which follows as for **ch'** and **k'**.

tl The mouth is shaped for **t**, then air is blown out both sides of the tongue as for **l**.

tl' **glottalized tl** The mouth is shaped for **tl**, the breath is caught and then released sharply to pronounce the vowel which follows, as for **ch'**, **k'** and **t'**.

ts as in English **lots**, but it must be practiced as syllable initial rather than as syllable final.

ts' **glottalized ts** The mouth is shaped for **ts**, the breath is caught and then released sharply to pronounce the vowel which follows, as for **ch'**, **k'**, **t'**, and **tl'**.

zh like the **z** in **azure**.

SYLLABLES

Words should be divided into syllables and sounded out syllable by syllable, then said again smoothly. To divide words into syllables accurately, it is well to know something of the syllable structure. In general, syllable patterns are CV (Consonant, Vowel) and CVC (Consonant, Vowel, Consonant). Syllabic **n** occurs, with no vowel, and sometimes **nl**, or **nsh**. Since word initial glottal stops are not written, words which begin with vowels (in writing) will begin with V or VC syllables.

dotl'izh blue/green

do t'l'izh

CV CVC

tsina'eelí boat

tsi na 'ee lí

CV CV CV CV

nashínl't'og you bother me

na shí nl t'og

CV CV CC CVC

in'íjhí thief

in 'íj hí

VC CV CV

It is helpful to know that only certain consonants ever occur at the end of a syllable. They are: -', -d, -g, -h, -l, -t, -n, -s, -sh, -z and -zh.

naltsoos paper

nal tsoos

CVC CVC

hishbizh braided

hish bizh

CVC CVC

tone:

Tone is a feature of the language. High tone is indicated by marks over the vowels which show that the syllable is said high. Unmarked syllables are said low.

yáá sky

yaa louse

bini' his nostril

bini' his land

In a few cases the tone on a long syllable is falling. This is indicated by marking the first vowel but not the second.

née which ends questions that can be answered yes or no

WESTERN APACHE DICTIONARY

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