

11. Pronunciation Guide to the Kamasau Language Alphabet. Small, raised numbers in the following chart refer to notes given after the chart.

Letter	Kamasau word	English meaning	Examples with this sound in:	
			Tok Pisin	English
a	<i>tami</i>	“string bag”	p <u>a</u> pa	al <u>so</u>
b	<i>bobo</i>	“aunt”	<u>b</u> anana	<u>b</u> anana
ch	<i>char</i>	“jungle”	//not found//	<u>ch</u> urch
d	<i>dabo</i>	“bush”	<u>d</u> aunbilo	<u>d</u> own
e	<i>ede</i>	“shelf, bed”	<u>e</u> t	<u>e</u> d
f	//loans only//		fa <u>f</u>	fi <u>ve</u>
g	<i>wuge</i>	“sago”	gi <u>g</u> im	gi <u>ve</u>
gh ¹	<i>ghati</i>	snake	//not found//	//not found//
h ²	<i>hami</i>	“string bag”	<u>h</u> aus	<u>h</u> ouse
i	<i>iny</i>	“hair, fur”	li <u>k</u> lik	<u>f</u> et
i ³	<i>kime</i>	“nose”	//not found//	//not found//
j	<i>jebe</i>	“shelf”	<u>J</u> un	<u>J</u> une
k	<i>ko</i>	“I go”	<u>k</u> am	<u>k</u> ing
l	//loans only//		long <u>p</u> ela	long
m	<i>moyu</i>	“my mother”	<u>m</u> ama	<u>m</u> other
mb	<i>imbiski</i>	“louse/lice”	ma <u>m</u> bu	<u>b</u> am <u>b</u> oo
n	<i>nandi</i>	“he come”	<u>n</u> au	<u>n</u> ow
nd	<i>ndig ruso</i>	“it gets stuck”	Ma <u>n</u> de	Mo <u>n</u> day
	<i>sinde</i>	“torch”		
ng ⁴	<i>nginy</i>	“sun”	si <u>ng</u> ing	<u>si</u> ng
	<i>gang</i>	“old person”		
ng ⁵	<i>mange</i>	“limb”	pi <u>ng</u> a	<u>fi</u> ng <u>e</u> r

	<i>nying</i>	“grass skirt”	//not found//	<u>sink</u>
nj	<i>njoqu</i>	“black palm”	//not found//	<u>orange</u>
ny ⁶	<i>nyoq</i>	“egg”	//not found//	//not found//
o	<i>obo</i>	“crotan”	<u>nogat</u>	<u>no</u>
p ⁷	<i>pu</i>	“pig”	//not found//	//not found//
q ⁸	<i>quayi</i>	“man”	//not found//	//not found//
	<i>puqo</i>	“breadfruit”		
	<i>paq</i>	“we eat”		
r ⁹	<i>ruso</i>	“they go”	<u>ran</u>	//not found//
s	<i>sare</i>	“vine”	<u>sik</u>	<u>sick</u>
t	<i>tami</i>	“string bag”	<u>tupela</u>	<u>two</u>
u	<i>nu</i>	“you (one)”	<u>nupela</u>	<u>noose, new</u>
v ¹⁰	<i>veri</i>	“enemy”	//none//	//none//
w	<i>wuye</i>	“water”	<u>wara</u>	<u>water</u>
y	<i>yari</i>	“sago swamp”	<u>yupela</u>	<u>you</u>

¹ This sound is a fricative ‘g’. The sound is made with the back of the tongue. Air comes out as in saying the letter ‘h’.

² This sound is found only in the Hagi dialect.

³ Both ‘i’ and ‘i’ are written as ‘i’ in many books, but the Primers and some books used the ‘i’ as well. The ‘i’ is a mid-central vowel half-way between ‘i’ and ‘u’, pronounced while smiling.

⁴ This is a nasal sound made at the back of the throat, a velar nasal.

⁵ This nasal sound is also made at the back of the throat, but it has a harder sound. It is called a prenasalised velar stop.

⁶ This is the same alveopalatal nasal sound found in Spanish, piñata.

⁷ This sound is a fricative ‘p’ which is like a ‘p’ but the air comes out while the lips are close together, instead of stopping as in the English ‘p’.

⁸ ‘Q’ represents glottal stop. To make this sound the glottis at the back of the throat closes very briefly. This sound is usually dropped in the Ghini dialect. Every English word which begins with a vowel starts with a glottal stop, but it is not written because it always occurs.

⁹ This is a flapped ‘r’ made with the tip of the tongue. It is sometimes spoken as an ‘l’.

¹⁰ This sound is a fricative ‘b’. It is between the English ‘v’ and ‘w’. The lips are held together almost like in the ‘b’, but the air comes out as the sound is being made.