

Koyukon Alphabet

a yah
house

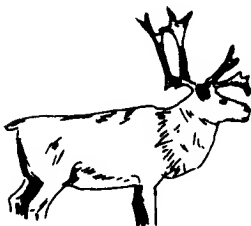


a sounds like the "a" in above and sofa

aa dinaa
man

aa sounds like the "a" in father and sometimes like the "a" in cat.

b bidziy
caribou

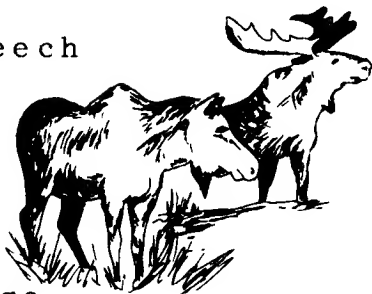


b is similar to the "b" in better.

ch lee ch
dog

ch sounds like the "ch" in church. The "ch" is used only in Upper Koyukon. The "k" without an underline changes to "ch".

ch' ch'ileech
song



ch' is similar to "ch", but with a slight popping sound. The "ch'" is used only in Upper Koyukon. The "k'" without an underline changes to "ch'".

d dineega
moose

d is similar to the "d" in do.

dl dlił
mountain



dl is similar to "gl" in glass, but made in the same position as a "d" and not back in the "g" position.

dz dzaah
gum

dz is similar to the "dz" or "ds" in adze and fads.

ee k'eełak'ee
one

1

ee usually sounds like the "ee" in see. When next to a back consonant it sounds similar to the "ay" in say.

g dinga
money



g is similar to the "g" in gun.

g goh
rabbit



g is similar to the "g" sound but pronounced further back in one's throat.

gh ghahoł
he is walking

gh is made in the position of a "g" but with the air passing through the mouth as in saying "z".

h hogoh
snow goose

h is similar to the "h" in hand.

h haa
lard

h is similar to the "h" but with a whispered quality and friction.

i dikin
stick



i sounds like the "i" in pin and spin.

j jeeja
blueberry

j sounds like the "j" in just. The "j" is used only in Upper Koyukon. The "k" without an underline changes to "j".

k keela
boy



k sounds like the "k" in kill.

k kaakina
boots

k is similar to the "k" sound, but pronounced further back in one's throat.

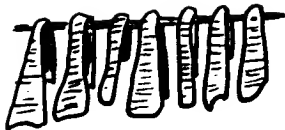
k' k'ileek
song

k' is similar to the "k", but with a slight popping sound.

k' k'eey
birch

k' is similar to the "k", but with a slight popping sound and also pronounced further back in one's throat.

l laguna
dried fish



l sounds like the "l" in love.

ł łeek
dog



ł is similar to the "l" but with a whispered quality and friction. The letter is an "l" with a line drawn through it.

m min
lake

n nindaala
duck

n nin
you

o nodot
down there

oa soa
sun

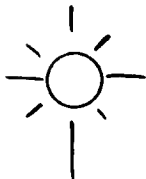
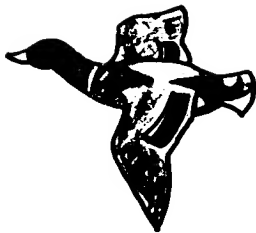
oo sooga
marten

s saasee
clock

t toat
waves

t' k'it'on'
leaves

tʃ hotʃ
sled



m sounds like the "m" in money.

n sounds like the "n" in none.

n is similar to the "n" but with a whispered quality.

o sounds like the "o" in honey.

oa sounds like the "o" in off.

oo sounds like the "oo" in too.

s sounds like the "s" in sassy.

t sounds like the "t" in toy.

t' is similar to "t" but with a slight popping sound

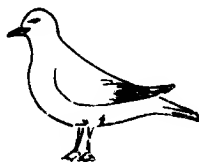
tʃ is similar to the "cl" in clock, but with the tongue in a "t" position and pronounced with the "ʃ" as one sound.

tʰ tʰ'in
bone



tʰ is similar to the "cl"
in clock but with the
tongue in a "t" position
and a slight popping
sound.

ts baats
seagull



ts sounds like the "ts"
in bats.

ts' ts'ah
cap

ts' is similar to the "ts"
but with a slight popping
sound.

u kun'
wood

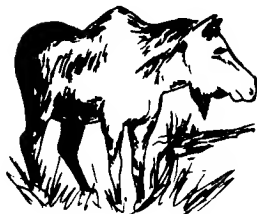


u sounds like the "u" in
pull.

y yaasik
box

y sounds like the "y" in
you. For upper Koyukuk
River this changes to a
soft "gh" sound.

y tʰ'eey
mosquito



y is similar to the "y"
but with a whispered
quality and friction.

z diyoazee
cow moose

z sounds like the "z" in
zebra.

' - sa-oaya'
my snowshoe

' and - indicate a glottal
stop which is a catch-
in-the-breath.

Dinaak'a

Our Language



Koyukon

Athapaskan

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