

The Dibabawon phonemes, their description, significant allophones, and orthographic symbols are as follows:

Phoneme	Description and Significant Allophones	Symbol
a	low central vowel	a
b	voiced bilabial stop	b
k	voiceless velar stop; a slightly aspirated variant occurs syllable initially	k
d	voiced alveolar stop; r (flap) occurs intervocally in some dialects	d
g	voiced velar stop	g
h	voiceless velar fricative; in the eastern dialect h is replaced with glottal stop	h
i	high front, close-to-open unrounded vowel	i
l	lateral	l
m	bilabial nasal	m
n	alveolar nasal	n
ŋ	velar nasal	ng
ɤ	high back open unrounded "pepet"; in the western dialect ɤ is replaced with ɜ in a vowel sequence	o

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p	voiceless bilabial stop; a slightly aspirated variant occurs syllable initially	p
s	alveolar grooved fricative	s
t	voiceless alveolar stop; a slightly aspirated variant occurs syllable initially	t
u	high to mid back rounded vowel	u
w	nonsyllabic high back rounded vocoid	w
y	nonsyllabic high front unrounded vocoid	y
ʔ	glottal stop syllable finally intervocally word initially preceding V	ʔ - unwritten

In personal names and borrowed words that have not been fully assimilated the following symbols also occur: c, e, j, ñ, q, r, v, x, and z. In such words the quality of each of the sounds represented by these symbols is approximately the same as in the language from which it was most recently borrowed.

Hyphen, besides representing intervocalic glottal stop, serves to separate complete stem reduplication, following some of the major languages.

In the Monkayo dialect h does not occur; it is replaced by glottal stop.

High pitch occurs predictably on the penultimate syllable of a normal statement.

For a more detailed description of Dibabawon phonemes and syllable structure, see Forster 1963.

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