

alphabet

nsəlxcín alphabet
and pronunciation guide

made by Okanogan Language program


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the letter a

 ■ a – sounds like the (a) in father


 ■ anwí – you

 ■ paʔpaʔláćaʔ – moose


 ■ axáʔ – this



The letter c

 ■ c sounds like the **ch** in church.

 ■ **cawt** – way of being, conduct

 ■ **ccwíxa?** – creek

 ■ **uc** – would, could



The letter c'

 c' sounds like ts in cats.

 c'qiln – arrow/bullet

 spc'niɬx^w – tent

 sʎaʎác' – book/read



The letter ə shwa


 ■ ə sounds like e in the word elephant.


 ■ əcx^wuy – he or she is coming.

 ■ nsəlxcín okanogan language



The letter h

 ■ h as in the word happy.

 ■ hiwt – rat

 ■ huhúy – alright well, ok then



The letter i

 i – makes a double ee or ea sound as in week or eat.

 ilí? – there

 kíkwa? – mother's father

 iklí? – over there



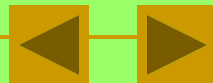
The letter k

 ■ k as in keep.


 ■ kkw'ápa? – dog

 ■ ka?kín – where at

 ■ kilx – hand



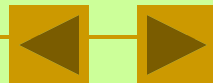
The letter k'

 ■ k' is a k pronounced at very back of tongue.

 ■ k'ast – bad

 ■ k'áma? – pine needles

 ■ k'iwlx – old



The letter k^w

 k^w is k pronounced with rounded lips


 k^wil – red

 k^wlcncut – cook


 k^winx – how many/much




The letter k^w

 ■ k^w is pronounced k' with rounded lips.

 ■ k^wiλt – the others

 ■ k^wík^wx^wna? – mouse


 ■ k^wk^wyúma? – small/ little



The letter l

 l as in love.

 limləmt – thank you

 limt – glad/ happy

 lʔiw – boy's father



The letter ɪ

 ■ ɪ abruptly stopped I.

 ■ ɪəʃtiws – becoming friends

 ■ sɪaʃt – friend

 ■ sɪəʃɪaʃt – friends



The letter ɥ

- ɥ or barred l, sound is made by forcing air downward on the side of tongue, tip of tongue pressed against back of top teeth.
- ɥsínca? – little brother
- ɥccups – little sister
- ɥqáqca? – big brother
- ɥkíkxa? – big sister



The letter ʁ' running man


- ʁ' sounds similar to a tl sound. The sound is made by forcing air downward at side of tongue very quickly, the tip of the tongue is pressed against back of top teeth.
- ʁ'ǎp – grown/ adulthood
- ʁ'íksm – peeking out, just poking out
- ʁ'iʔí – canoe



The letter m

 ■ m as in mom.

 ■ mistm – girl's father


 ■ málĥa? – tell a lie/false

 ■ mahúya? – raccoon



The letter m'

 ■ m' an abruptly stopped m

 ■ tum' – girl's mother

 ■ stim' – what



The letter n

 ■ n as in no

 ■ naqs – one


 ■ nʔaʔmut – sit inside

 ■ nak^wm – evidently



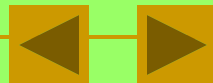
The letter **ń**

 ■ **ń** an abruptly stopped n


 ■ **ń**axmɤ – but/however


 ■ **ń**í**ń**wis – later

 ■ **ń**ik'm – cut



The letter p

 ■ p as in pop.





 ■ pənkin – when?

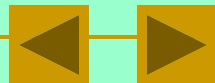
 ■ put – enough

 ■ písłat – plural big




The letter p̣

-  ■ p̣ is an explosive p sound.
-  ■ p̣ína? – birch bark basket
-  ■ p̣um – brown/ tan color
-  ■ p̣úł̣əm – at the end of something



The letter q


 ■ q is made at top of throat, behind the tongue.

 ■ qána? – baby talk for grandma

 ■ qáqna? – grandmother dad's mom



The letter q̣

 ■ q̣ is made farther down the throat, at the top of adam's apple.

 ■ q̣ilqn – headache

 ■ q̣ilt – sick

 ■ q̣ciʔx^w – log cabin



The letter q^w

 ■ q^w is pronounced q with rounded lips.

 ■ q^wlq^wilt – speak/talk

 ■ q^wáʎsqi? – bluejay

 ■ q^wnq^want – pitiful




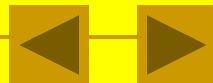
The letter q^w

 ■ q^w is pronounced q with rounded lips.

 ■ q^wuct – fat

 ■ q^wliw'm – pick berries

 ■ q^wlam – roast over fire



The letter r



■ r as in rat.



■ rático – radio



■ c'ris – king fisher



■ carism – motion to someone



The letter **r** glottal r

 **r** a rolled r sound.

 **yir** – round

 **mrimtsn** – medicine

 **kram** –swim / chop



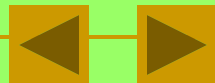
The letter **s**

 ■ **s** as in sister.

 ■ **s**c'wanáytm – bigfoot

 ■ **mu****s** – four

 ■ **s**əsí? – uncle, mother's brother



The letter t

 ■ t as in top.


 ■ táma? – baby talk (grandma)

 ■ stmtíma? –grandma, mother's mom


 ■ tət wít – boy



The letter **t'** glottal t

 ■ **t'** is an explosive t sound made right behind top teeth.

 ■ **t'ikt'** – flood

 ■ **t'a?t'ik'** – young men


 ■ **t'wístwi?** – everyone stand up




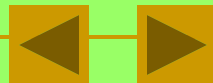
The letter u

 ■ u makes a double oo sound as in toot.

 ■ ?úlus – gather up


 ■ ?al?úlus – gather up plural

 ■ ?alúsqáǵa? – gather up horses




The letter **w**

 ■ **w** as in walk.

 ■ **w**ik – see/saw

 ■ **w**ikn – I saw him/her

 ■ **w**ikntsn – I saw you

 ■ **w**ikntx^w – you saw him/her

 ■ **w**iks – he/she saw him/her

 ■ **w**ikntm – we saw him/her



The letter ẃ

 ■ ẃ an abruptly ended w.





 ■ suẃikiʔst – lightning

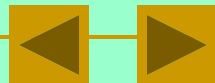
 ■ sqlaẃ – money/beaver

 ■ sẃaʔ – cougar



The letter x

-  ■ x is pronounced slightly farther back than the h sound.
-  ■ xatmscút – put self first/go first
-  ■ a? cx?it – at first
-  ■ ximíx – whatever



The letter x^w x raised w

 x^w is the x sound with rounded lips.


 x^w umína? – steelhead

 x^w u x^w mína? – rainbow trout

 x^w ?it – many/alot




The letter **ǰ** wedge x

 ■ **ǰ** is made near the adam's apple, a hard x sound.

 ■ **ǰ**mink – like/want

 ■ in**ǰ**mink – I like or want

 ■ an**ǰ**mink – you like or want



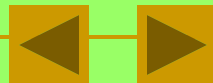
The letter \check{x}^w wedge x raised w

 ■ \check{x}^w is the sound of \check{x} with rounded lips.


 ■ \check{x}^w upt – weak


 ■ sn \check{x}^w ilmn – garbage can

 ■ \check{x}^w aŋt \check{x}^w t – duck




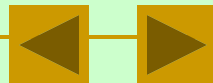
The letter y

 ■ y as in year.

 ■ yaʒcín – beach

 ■ yaʒyáʒt – all


 ■ ylmix^wm – chief



The letter **y'** or glottal y

 ■ **y'** is the **y** sound abruptly ended.





 ■ **wa'y'** – hello, ok, yes, well

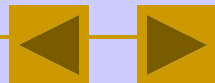
 ■ **x̣x̣a'y'** – red hawthorn

 ■ **sm'y'ma'y'** – tell stories




The letter γ gamma

-  ■ γ called gamma, a buzzing γ in the back of throat.
-  ■ $\gamma\acute{\iota}\mu\varsigma$ – pole at winter dance
-  ■ $\kappa\gamma\acute{\iota}\rho$ – tree/planted post
-  ■ $\kappa\gamma\acute{\iota}\mu$ –weave



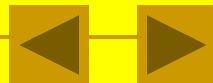
The letter ʔ glottal stop

 ■ ʔ a brief pause, to aid in proper pronunciation of a word.


 ■ q^waʔq^waʔál – meeting

 ■ aʔísck' – squirrel

 ■ kaʔtís – three




The letter ʔ pharyngeal

 ■ ʔ makes the a change from fa**th**er, to a**pp**le.

 ■ ʔaymt – mad/angry

 ■ ʔápna? –now

 ■ ʔáyú? – chocolate tips




The letter ɣ^w pharyngeal raised w

 ■ ɣ^w , makes the **a** have an **ow** sound.

 ■ ca ɣ^w lx – wash

 ■ ka ɣ^w m – pray

 ■ snka ɣ^w mn – a place to pray

