

VOWELS:

A)

The symbol indicates a vowel sound used in the Blackfoot language. Each symbol utilizes a diacritic (the markings above the letter) to indicate which vowel sound is being used. Here is a chart that explains each vowel:

ǎa = **dawn, call, maul, yacht, caught, bra**

ǎ = **sofa, occur, support, mama**

āa = **hat, answer, laugh, plaid, calf**

āi = **met, inject, again, many, jeopardy**

ay/ai = **grey, state, paint, Mercedes, reindeer**

īy = **cry, sigh, pie, bike, idea, sign,**

i = **kit, hymn, busy, sieve, women**

ii = **feet, leak, city,**

oō = **Sioux, glue, shoe, two, brew, tube,**

oö = **put, foot**

ō = **row, toe, no**

ǔ = **pun, assassinate, onion, does, enough, flood**

*note: this is what we will post on school walls next year next year

B)

The [˘] symbol indicates the guttural tone. This sound is included in such words as; gambler [āak˘tsii], what [ǔ˘sää] , nose [nō˘ksissis] and water [ō˘kii]

The [˙] symbol is used to indicate both an aspirate tone and a shift in vowel tone. The [˙] makes the aspirate sound when following a consonant and following both the [i] and [ii] vowels. Such words that include this sound are; ‘i comb my hair’ [t̄iyāak˙kinnii], seven [i˙kitsiikă], nine [p̄ii˙ksoō], and sing [ain˙kii].

Tones

When they [˙] creates a vowel shift when it follows all vowels except the [i] and [ii] vowels. Examples include; boy [su˙kō˙määpii], dog puke [imiită˙awkittsskää], phone [i˙tai˙pō˙yō˙p̄], stand up [niipō˙pō˙yiit̄] and wolf [măko˙iyii].

Two more vowels to take note are [ī] and [īi]. The [ī] is a hard [ii] sound, as in; come in [p̄iit̄] and buffalo [īinnii]. The [īi] is a long [āi] sound found in kȳinnimay and kȳinn (end).

CONSONANTS

ḳ, p̣, ṭ, s, w, y, m, n, h, •

The [•] is a glottal stop. Global stops are in English words 'button' and 'rotten'. Words in Blackfoot with the are; s/he is crying [ǎwǎ•sai•nii], s/he is talking [ai•p̣o'yii], and Friday [iitai•nikkyō'•p̣].

d [h] sound is in the Blackfoot language. In such words like hŭnyǎ and kyǎa•hǎapǎanisṣ'sii (you should have said). In this writing system the [h] is *not* used for either the guttural or aspirate tones.

The reason the p̣, ṭ, and ḳ have dots above them is to indicate to the reader that these sounds are not the exact same as the English p, t, and k. In English, when we execute these sounds a 'puff' of air is issued from our mouths. An easy way to represent this is to hold a piece of paper loosely in front of your mouth and say 'pit.' The paper will move right after the [p] sound. Now say 'bit' and you'll see that the paper will not move. Lastly, say the word 'spit' and you'll notice the paper will not move. The Blackfoot [p̣] is akin to the [p] in the word 'spit'. Whereas the Blackfoot [p̣] is similar as the English [b] sound it we do not rattle our vocal chords (the English [b], however, does rattle the vocal chords). In short, the Blackfoot [p̣] is some where in the middle of an English [p] and [b]. The dot above the letter allows for the Blackfoot written word to have autonomy and not be confined to an English method of spelling.

You can do this also with the [ṭ] and [ḳ] as well:

'till' 'dill' and 'still'

'kill' 'gill' and 'skill'

English words with the [ǎa] sound:

Sauce	sǎas
Dawn	dǎan
Taught	tǎat
Yacht	yǎat
On	ǎan
Sought	sǎat

English words with the [ǎ] sound:

Sofa	Sofǎ
Support	Sǎpport
Occur	ǎkur
Mama	Mǎamǎ
Lama	Lǎamǎ

English words with the [āa] sound:

Axe	āaks
Masts	māasts
Asks	āasks
Dance	dāants
Laugh	lāaf
Plaid	plāad

English words with the [āi] sound:

Desks	dāisks
Bear	bāir
Gwen	gwāin
Guests	gāists
Jeopardy	jāipardy
Bare	bāir

English words with the [ai]/[ay] Sound:

State	stait
Bake	bake
Gain	gain
Reign	rain
Lame	laim
Grey	grai / gray
mayo	mayo

English words with the [īy] Sound:

Cry	krīy
Psych	sīyk
Sigh	sīy
Pie	pīy
Bike	bīyk
Sign	sīyn
Rhyme	rīym

English words with the [i] Sound:

Bit	bit
Fist	fist
Ribless	ribliss
lyric	lirik
busy	bisy
myth	mith

English words with the [ii] Sound:

Feet	fiit
Beat	biit
Ski	skii
East	iist
City	sitii
Meaty	miitii

English words with the [oö] sound:

Put	poöt
Foot	foöt
Book	boök
wood	woöd
woman	woömaan
Would	woöd

English words with the [ō] sound:

Row	rō
Though	thō
Know	nō
Toe	tō
Phone	fōn
No	nō

English words with the [ǔ] sound:

Pun	pǔn
Son	sǔn
Sun	sǔn
Does	dǔs
Rough	rǔf
Flood	flǔd

English words with the [oo] sound:

Two	toō
Shoe	shoō
New	noō
To	toō
Clue	kloō
Sioux	soō
Too	toō
Rude	roōd

