

Lakota Glossary and Pronunciation Guide*

Canpa	(Caŋ pa')	The berry of the chokecherry bush.
Cananka	(Caŋna' kpa)	A mushroom growing on a tree.
Cankalyapi	(Caŋka' lyapi)	A tea made of a certain bark.
Ceyaka	(Ceya' ka)	The mint plant used for making tea.
Kabubu	(Kabu' bu')	Bread made in a cast iron skillet and baked over an open fire or on top of the stove. The term comes from the sound made by the dough as it is kneaded which is similar to the sound of hitting the top of a drum.
Lakota	(La ko' ta)	The term for the confederacy who comprise a total of seven bands within the Lakota Nation. The Lakota are distinct from the Dakota and the Nakota Nations.
Oglala	(Og la' la)	One of the seven bands of the Lakota Nation. The meaning of the name is "to scatter" and is applied to the people in this band.
Pangi	(Paŋgi')	The wild artichoke.
Sicangu	(Si caŋ' gu)	One of the seven bands of the Lakota Nation. The meaning is "burnt thighs".
Sinte Gleska	(Siŋ te gles'ka')	The name of Spotted Tail, traditional leader of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, whose name is honored with the naming of their tribal institution of higher education, Sinte Gleska University.
Taniga	(Tani'ga)	The paunch of a buffalo or cow.
Timpsila	(Tin'psila)	The wild turnip, a prairie apple.
Wakapape	(Waka'papi)	Mashed up meat mixed with marrow, also known as pemmican.

Wasna	(Wasná)	A mixture of pounded beef and marrow that is kept in a powdered state.
Wastunkala	(Waštunkala)	Ears of corn that are boiled and dried.
Wozapi	(Wo'japi)	Something mashed and stirred up; a sweet mush made of berries.

* Dictionary of the Teton Dakota Sioux Language, Eugene Buechel, S.J., Red Cloud Indian School, Inc., 1970

Key to Pronunciation

a	sounds like <i>a</i> in <i>father</i>
†	sounds like <i>an</i> in <i>blanc</i> (<i>french</i>)
ch	sounds like <i>ch</i> in <i>ch-air</i>
e	sounds like <i>e</i> in <i>they</i>
g	sounds like <i>g</i> in <i>rig</i>
ğ	sounds like <i>ch</i> in <i>machen</i> (<i>german</i>)
h	sounds like <i>h</i> in <i>hip</i>
l	sounds like <i>e</i> in <i>be</i>
j	sounds like <i>s</i> in <i>fusion</i>
k	sounds like <i>k</i> in <i>kill</i>
ḳ	sounds like <i>k</i> in <i>kill</i>
ḳ	sounds like <i>g</i> in <i>give</i>
l	sounds like <i>l</i> in <i>love</i>
m	sounds like <i>m</i> in <i>man</i>
n	sounds like <i>n</i> in <i>name</i>
ŋ	sounds like <i>n</i> in <i>ink</i>
o	sounds like <i>o</i> in <i>old</i>
ø	sounds like <i>o</i> in <i>old</i>
p	sounds like <i>p</i> in <i>pink</i>
p̣	sounds like <i>b</i> in <i>bill</i>
s	sounds like <i>s</i> in <i>say</i>
ś	sounds like <i>sh</i> in <i>ship</i>
ṭ	sounds like <i>d</i> in <i>day</i>
ṭ	sounds like <i>t</i> in <i>tar</i>
t	sounds like <i>t</i> in <i>take</i>
u	sounds like <i>oo</i> in <i>boot</i>
w	sounds like <i>w</i> in <i>way</i>
y	sounds like <i>y</i> in <i>yonder</i>

Note: All vowels, when they terminate a statement of fact, are stopped, being indicated thus ska', han', ske', keyapi', etc.

O'odham Glossary

Akimel	(A-key-mal)	The O'odham term for their people who live near the Salt and Gila Rivers and who are known as "The River People".
Bahidaj	(Ba-hi-dach)	The ripe fruit that is harvested from the Ha:sa§ (Saguaro cactus).
Ba'uff	(Baa'-uff)	A prepared dish that has been cooked using brown tepary beans which are a major crop planted by the Akimel O'odham and the Tohono O'odham.
Cholla	(Choy-a)	A cactus plant which grows in the desert. The cholla has buds which are eaten much like a vegetable. These buds can be dried and stored for later use.
Gila	(Hee-la)	A Spanish name for a river in Arizona that crosses the state to meet the Colorado River. The O'odham established the Gila River Indian Community on the banks of this river.
Ha:sa§	(Haa-shan)	The O'odham word for the giant Saguaro cactus. This cactus yields useful wood and bears an edible fruit harvested by the O'odham people.
Huhukam	(Hu-hu-gam)	The ancestors of the Akimel O'odham.
Ju§	(Ju-n)	The O'odham word for the dried saguaro fruit which falls to the ground from the Saguaro Cactus (Ha:sa§).
O'odham	(Ath-thum)	This word means " <i>The People</i> " and describes the Tohono O'odham and the Akimel O'odham Nations.
O'odham Himdag	(Ath-thum Himdag)	A reference to the Man in the Maze which is important to knowing the culture of the people.
Pinole	(Pin-o-le)	The wheat grown along the Gila and Salt Rivers and used to make flour and gruel.

Sacaton	(Sak-a-thon)	A village in the Gila River Indian Community whose Spanish name refers to the sacaton grasses that grow in that area.
Saguaro	(Sa-wa-ro)	The Spanish word for the giant cactus which yields both wood and edible fruits to the O'odham people. The O'odham call this cactus, the Ha:saꞩ.
Soba	(So-ba)	A soup made with tortillas.
Tepary	(Te-par-y)	White and brown tepary beans are the staple diet of the O'odham people.
Tohono	(To-ho-no)	The O'odham term reflecting their homeland in the desert and to describe themselves specifically as "The Desert People".
Tortillas	(Tor-ti-yas)	The Spanish word for a flat bread made from cornmeal or flour. This bread is enjoyed by the Dine, Ndee' and the O'odham people as part of their diet.

Apache Glossary *

Dee´	(Deh´)	The San Carlos Apache Tribe's description of themselves as "The People".
Javelina	(Hav-e-lena)	The Spanish word for a wild boar or pig. Also, called a 'cochino" or a gó chi.
Ndee´	(N-deh)	The term used by the White Mountain Apache Tribe to describe themselves as "The People".
Yatinayahé	(Ya ti nayi ahé)	The name for a person who is a messenger and who runs while carrying the words.

* Western Apache Dictionary, compiled by Edgar Perry, Canyon Z. Quintero, Sr., Catherine D. Davenport, Corrine B. Perry, published by the White Mountain Apache Tribe, 1972. Special thanks also to Jackie Altaha.

Diné (Navajo) Glossary and Pronunciation Guide ¹

Ach'íi	(´Ach'íí)	The intestines of an animal that are popular when twisted around tallow and roasted.
Alkaad	(´Alkaad)	This is the "Puberty Cake" made from cornmeal and cooked in a pit as a highlight of the womanhood ceremony
Atole	(´Adóola)	A fine gruel made from cornmeal.
Deezbaa	(Deez bah)	A name given to a girl meaning that she is to lead on a raid.
Diné	(Dine' é)	The original term by the Holy People to their descendants signifying the people and clans.
Hashke Dilwoii	(Hash ke' Dil wo' ii)	The name given to a boy meaning that he is a Fleet Warrior.
Naadáá'	(Naa-dáá')	The Diné (Navajo) word for corn.
Navajo	(Nav-a-ho)	The term given by Mexican explorers for the people whom they met who had broad-planted fields. Navajo is pronounced Naabeehó when Diné speakers say Naabeehó Dine'é to identify themselves.
Yego	(Yée go)	Try hard! An encouraging word spoken to give support to someone doing a hard task.

Sounds of the language in the foregoing Diné (Navajo) words ²

Vowels:

1. **a** is pronounced much like the **a** of *father*, as in shándíín (sunbeam).
2. **a** has much the same quality as **an** in French *dans*, as in ma'íi (coyote).

¹ Deepest appreciation is extended to Helen George, University of California (Los Angeles), for her guidance and understanding in the development of this glossary whose linguistic terminology and descriptions are based upon The Navajo Language, Robert W. Young, William Morgan, University of New Mexico Press, 1980.

² The description of these sounds is limited to the words contained in this particular glossary.

3. **áá'** is similar to **a**, but prolonged in pronunciation as naad**áá'** (corn).
4. **é** is pronounced like the **e** of *met* with a raised tone, as in Diné (the people).
5. **i** is pronounced much like the **i** in *bít*, as in Diné (the people).
6. **íí** is prolonged in pronunciation and having the same quality like the **i** in *machine*, as in shándíín (sunbeam).
7. **o** sounds approximately like the **oa** of *goat*. However, when **o** is preceded by **h**, it is pronounced approximately like the **oo** in *wood* as in hooghan (dwelling).
Navajo vowels are distinguished by pitch. The orthography uses accent marks above the vowels to indicate a high tone. Voice pitch or tone is a distinctive feature, serving to distinguish meaning. For example, a low tone in the word *ni* means 'you', whereas the high tone in *ní* means 'he/she says'. In addition to pitch, vowel length is also a distinctive feature. For example, high long vowels occur as *íí*, *óó*, and *éé* as in *shándíín*, *alts'óózí*, and *yá'át'ééh*, respectively.

Consonants:

1. **d** is a voiceless, unaspirated alveolar stop, comparable in quality to the deaspirated **t** like in *stop*, as in Diné.
2. The apostrophe / ' / signifies a "glottal stop" that is a consonant produced by closing and opening the glottis (passage through the larynx). It is heard as the "catch" between "oh oh!" in English. In Navajo pronunciation, it is the initial phoneme in any word beginning with a vowel, however, the written orthography does not generally reflect this. The glottal stop appears in medial positions and as a final consonant indicated in the orthography for ma'ii (coyote) or naad**áá'**.
3. **s** is a voiceless spirant similar to the **s** of *sin*, as in hastiín (mature male).
4. **sh** is a voiceless blade-palatal spirant similar to the **sh** of *she*, as in shándíín (sunbeam).
5. **gh** is a voiced velar spirant produced by raising the back portion of the tongue to a position so near the soft palate that, when a stream of air is forced through the narrowed passage, accompanied by vibration of the vocal chords, a "growling sound" results, as in hooghan.
6. **h** is a voiceless counterpart of **gh**. The "hissing sound" is comparable to that of the **ch** of German *ich*, as in hastiín (mature male).
7. **l** is comparable to the **l** in *yellow*. **ł** (slashed **l**) is the voiceless correspondent of **l**. **ł** is produced by placing the tip of the tongue firmly against the alveolar ridge, in an **l** position, and forcing air out laterally from both sides of the tongue, without voicing, as in *alts'óózí* (slender).

8. **ts'** is made up of two parts. In the first part, **ts** is the aspirated counterpart of **dz**, roughly compared to the much more weakly aspirated **ts** of *Patsy*. In the second part, **ts'** is the glottalized counterpart of **ts**, produced with a sudden release of air under pressure from a **ts** position, as in *alts'óózí* (slender).
9. **m** is comparable to **m** in *man* as in *maq'ii* (coyote).
10. **n** is comparable to **n** in *no* as in *naadaáá'* (corn).

Semi-Vowels:

1. **y** is comparable to the **y** of *yoke*, as in *yá'át'ééh* (Hello).