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# LEARN TO WRITE IN CREE SYLABICS

Lesson 1

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# Lesson 1

## VOWELS



A



Ā



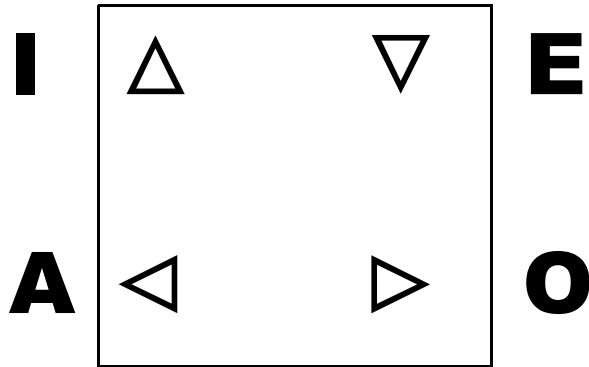
O



E



I



1. In this course we plan to learn to recognize different sounds of the Cree language. We will learn the vowels and consonants and how they form syllables.

When we finish this course,

- 1) we will be able to read Cree written in syllabics and also in English letters.
- 2) we will also learn about 60 Cree words. You will find more than 60 Cree words in the book, but you will be asked to know 60.

What do we want to be able to do in this course?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. We want to learn to read the Cree language in syllabics and also in English letters and learn 60 Cree words.

All languages are made up of full sounds. A full sound may be one letter standing alone, or it may be two or more letters together forming one complete sound. We call these full sounds, syllables.

Of what are all languages made up? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Languages are made up of full sounds. These full sounds are called syllables. Some letters can stand alone to make one sound or one syllable.

What are these full sounds called? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. These full sounds are called syllables. The letters which can stand alone are called vowels. They are open sounds. Every syllable needs a vowel.

What are the letters called which can stand alone to make a syllable? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. These letters are called vowels. In the English language we have five vowels. They are **(a) (e) (i) (o) (u)** and sometimes the **(y)**.

What do we call **(a) (e) (i) (o) (u)** and sometimes **(y)**?

\_\_\_\_\_

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6. We call these letters vowels. In the Cree language we have four vowels. They are (**◁, a**) (**∇, e**) (**Δ, i**) (**▷, o**).

How many vowels are there in the Cree language? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. There are four vowels in the Cree language.

Write the four vowels of the Cree language.

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (English letters)

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (Syllabics)

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8. The four vowels are (**◁, a**) (**∇, e**) (**Δ, i**) and (**▷, o**). Sometimes vowels are short and sometimes they are long. It is important to compare short and long vowels within a given language. Compare Cree with Cree and not Cree with English. In the Cree language three vowels can be short or long. They are: (**◁, a**) (**Δ, i**) and (**▷, o**). The (**∇, e**) is always long.

Let us look at the short vowels. When the vowels are short they sound like this:

- (a) . . . . . as in **a**ppeal
- (i) . . . . . as in **i**t
- (o) . . . . . as in **o**ld

Which vowels are short and also long? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (English letters)

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (Syllabics)

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9. (A) (i) and (o) are both short and long vowels. The short (<math>\triangleleft</math>, a) sounds like the (a) used in appeal.

Look at the word api. (<math>\triangleleft</math>, a) is short. (Api) means "sit down".

What is the sound of the short (<math>\triangleleft</math>, a)?

**a** (a) as in \_\_\_\_\_ (English word)

<math>\triangleleft</math> (<math>\triangleleft</math>, a) as in \_\_\_\_\_ (Cree word)

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10. The short (<math>\triangleleft</math>, a) sounds like the (a) in appeal or the (<math>\triangleleft</math>, a) in (api).

The short (<math>\triangle</math>, i) sounds like the (i) in **i**t. Now look at the word itohtew. The first syllable has a short (<math>\triangle</math>, i). Itohtew means he goes.

What is the sound of the short (<math>\triangle</math>, i)?

**i** (i) as in \_\_\_\_\_ (English word)

<math>\triangle</math> (<math>\triangle</math>, i) as in \_\_\_\_\_ (Cree word)

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11. The short (i) sounds like the (i) in **bit** or the (Δ, i) in **itohtew**.

We have one more short vowel, the letter (▷, o). The short (o) is like the (o) used in **cold**.

Kotak, which means other, uses a short (▷, o). As we said before, it is important to compare short and long vowels within a given language.

What is the sound of the short (▷, o)?

o (o) as in \_\_\_\_\_ (English word)

▷ (▷, o) as in \_\_\_\_\_ (Cree word)

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12. The short (o) sounds like the (o) in **cold** or the (▷, o) in **kotak**.

Let us look at what we have learned.

A vowel is a letter which can \_\_\_\_\_ alone, to make a syllable or it can be used with a consonant to make a syllable.

A vowel can be \_\_\_\_\_ or long.

The vowels which are both short and long in Cree are: \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

The short (◁, a) sounds:

as (a) in the English word \_\_\_\_\_

or in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

The short (Δ, i) sounds:

as (i) in the English word \_\_\_\_\_

or in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

The short (▷, o) sounds:

as (o) in the English word \_\_\_\_\_

or in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

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- 13. A vowel is a letter which can stand alone to make a syllable or it can be used with a consonant to make a syllable.

A vowel can be short or long. The vowels which are both short and long are:

◁ a      Δ i      ▷ o

The short (◁, a) sounds:

as (a) in the English word appeal

or in the Cree word api

The short (Δ, i) sounds:

as (i) in the English word bit

or in the Cree word itohtew

The short (▷, o) sounds:

as (o) in the English word cold

or in the Cree word kotak

Now let us look at the long vowels in Cree. We have four vowels in Cree (◁, a) (▽, e) (Δ, i) (▷, o).

Three can be short or long. One vowel is always long. Look carefully at the vowels.

Which vowel is always long? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. The (∇, e) is always long. It always sounds the same in Cree.

e The sound for (∇, e) is like the English (ay)

∇ as (∇) in day, say, pay or may.

This letter is often used alone in Cree. We also find it in many words.

One Cree word which uses the (∇, e) is **peyak** which means one.

What is the sound of (∇, e) in Cree?

e as (ay) in \_\_\_\_\_ (English)

∇ as (∇, e) in \_\_\_\_\_ (Cree)

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15. The sound of (∇, e) is always long. (∇, e) sounds like (ay) in **day** or like (∇, e) in **peyak**.

Now let us look at the long (<í, a). It is written (ā) in English letters. In syllabics it is written (<í). This sounds something like (ou) in out or outer or maybe like the (ou) in **ouch**. This sound is usually used when there is a (w) before or after it. This sound is used in nipāw - he sleeps.

What does the long (<í, a) sound like when it is used before or after a (w)?

ā as (ou) in \_\_\_\_\_ (English)

<í as (<í, ā) in \_\_\_\_\_ (Cree)

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16. The long (<í, a) sounds like (ou) in **ouch** or (<í, ā) in **nipāw**.

Often there is no (w) close to an (a). Then it sounds a little different.



Then we have the sound of the short (◁, a) long like (◁̄, a-a). You hear it in words like (Yahweh) in Hebrew. We do not really use this sound in English words. This is used in (**e mīcisoyān**) - as I eat. Another sound for the long (◁, a) is

(◁̄, a-a) as in \_\_\_\_\_ (Cree)

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17. We have learned that the long (◁, a) can be written (ā) in English letters. In syllabics it is written (◁̄). It sounds like the English (**ou**) when there is a (**w**) close. It also sounds like a long (short a) as in **e mīcisoyān**.

Let us look at the long (Δ, i) now. This is written as (ī) or (i) in English. In the syllabics it is written (Δ). This has only one long sound as the (**ee**) in **beet**. A Cree word which uses this sound is **kīya**. **Kīya** means you.

What does the long (Δ, i) sound like ?

ī as (**ee**) in \_\_\_\_\_ (English)

Δ as (Δ, ī) in \_\_\_\_\_ (Cree)

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18. The long (Δ, i) sounds like (**ee**) in **beet** or as (ī) in **kīya**.

We have only one more long letter to look at. This is (▷, o). It is written (ō) in English letters.

In syllabics it is written (▷). This sounds like the (**o**) in **obey**. Sometimes you have to listen very carefully to know if it is short or long. It is long in the word **tōta** - do it. Remember we compare the sounds in Cree. The long (ō) is a bit longer than the short (o).

What does the long (▷, o) sound like?

ō as (ō) in \_\_\_\_\_ (English)

▷ as (▷, ō) in \_\_\_\_\_ (Cree)

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19. The long (o) is written (ō) or (o). It sounds like the (o) in **obey** or (▷, ō) in **tōta**.

We have learned a lot of things about vowels today.

What is a syllable? \_\_\_\_\_

A vowel is a letter which can \_\_\_\_\_ alone to make a syllable or it can be used with a consonant to make a syllable.

A vowel can be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

In Cree the vowels which are both short and long are: \_\_\_\_\_

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20. The short (◁, a) sounds:

as (◁, a) in the English word \_\_\_\_\_

or in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

The short (△, i) sounds:

as (i) in the English word \_\_\_\_\_

or in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

The short (▷, o) sounds:

as (o) in the English word \_\_\_\_\_

or in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

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21. The long vowels are \_\_\_\_\_  
The (∇, e) sounds:

as (ay) in the English word \_\_\_\_\_

as (∇, e) in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

The long (<math>\langle \dot{\mathbf{a}} \rangle</math>, **a**) sounds:

as (**ou**) when a (**w**) is close

as in the English word \_\_\_\_\_

as (<math>\langle \dot{\mathbf{a}} \rangle</math>, **ā**) in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

as (<math>\langle \dot{\mathbf{a}} \rangle</math>, **a-a**) in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

The long (<math>\Delta</math>, **i**) sounds:

as (**ee**) in the English word \_\_\_\_\_

as (<math>\Delta</math>, **ī**) in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

The long (<math>\triangleright</math>, **o**) sounds:

**as** (**ō**) in the English word \_\_\_\_\_

as (<math>\triangleright</math>, **ō**) in the Cree word \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not remember all of the answers look back at your lesson.  
Learn these well. All these answers are also on the next page, so you  
can remember them well.

## VOWELS

A syllable is a single full sound in a language.

A vowel is a letter which can stand alone to make a syllable or it can be  
used with a consonant to make a syllable.

A vowel can be both short and long.

The Cree vowels which are short and long are:

<math>\langle \mathbf{a} \rangle</math>      <math>\Delta \mathbf{i}</math>      <math>\triangleright \mathbf{o}</math>

The short (<math>\langle \mathbf{a} \rangle</math>, **a**) sounds:

**a**      as (a) in the English word appeal  
<math>\langle \mathbf{a} \rangle</math>      or as in the Cree word api

The short (Δ, i) sounds:

- i as (i) in the English word **bit**
- Δ or as in the Cree word **itohtew**

The short (▷, o) sounds:

- o as (o) in the English word **cold**
- ▷ or as in the Cree word **kotak**

The long vowels are: e, ā, ī, and ō.

The (∇, e) sounds:

- e as (ay) in the English word **day**
- ∇ as (∇, e) in the Cree word **peyak**

The long (<1, ā) sounds:

- ā like as (ou) when a (w) is close as in the English word **ouch**
- <1 as (<1, ā) in the Cree word **nipāw**
- as (<1, a-a) in the Cree word **e mīcisoyān**

The long (Δ, i) sounds:

- ī as (ee) in the English word **beet**
- Δ as (Δ, ī) in the Cree word **kīya**

The long (▷, o) sounds:

- ō as (ō) in the English word **obey**
- ▷ as (▷, ō) in the Cree word **tōta**

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