

Lesson 2

CONSONANTS, AND THE CONSONANT ("H)

"◁

HA

"◁̇

HĀ

"▷

HO

"▽

HE

"△

HI

HI

"△

"▽

HE

HA

"◁

"▷

HO

oho

▷"▷

these

ohō

▷"▷

owl

ohi

▷"△

these

ehe

▽"▽

yes

1. Do you remember all the things we learned about vowels?

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 _____ or _____

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

The short (\triangleleft, **a**) sounds:

as (**a**) in the English word _____

or in the Cree word _____

The short (\triangle, **i**) sounds:

as (**i**) in the English word _____

or in the Cree word _____

The short (\triangleright, **o**) sounds:

as (**o**) in the English word _____

or in the Cree word _____

The long vowels are _ _ _ _

The (∇, **e**) sounds:

as (**ay**) in the English word _____

as (∇, **e**) in the Cree word _____

The long (\triangleleft, **a**) sounds:

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

as in the English word _____

as (<í, ā) in the Cree word _____

as (<í, a-a) in the Cree word _____

The long (Δ, ī) sounds:

(Δ, ee) as in the English word _____

as (Δ, ī) in the Cree word _____

The long (▷, o) sounds:

as (ō) in the English word _____

as (▷, ō) in the Cree word _____

2. Look at the last page of lesson 1 to see if you have answered correctly.

Today we want to learn:

- 1) what a consonant is
- 2) ten consonants in Cree
- 3) one consonant (" h)
- 4) four Cree words, ehe, ohi, oho and ohō

3. A consonant is a partly closed sound in speech. A consonant cannot stand by itself to make a syllable. It always needs a vowel helper.

Remember we learned: A vowel is a letter which can stand alone to make a syllable or can be used with a consonant to make a syllable.

Can a consonant stand alone to make a syllable? _____

4. No, a consonant cannot stand alone to make a syllable. It always needs a vowel helper. In the English language we have 21 consonants. They are: b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z. In the Cree we have only 10 consonants. These are: c, h, k, m, n, p, s, t, w, y. How many fingers are on your hands? One consonant for each finger.

How many consonants are in the Cree language? _____

5. There are 10 consonants in the Cree language. We will learn about (**h**) today. In the Cree it is written (").

The letter (" **h**) can be used in four ways. It can be used before all the short and long vowels. It can be used after a vowel. It also can be used as the last letter of a syllable, or at the end of the word.

Consonant	Before a vowel	After a vowel	End of syllable	End of word	Between consonant and vowel
h	h	h	h	h	

In how many ways can the letter (" **h**) be used? _____

6. The letter (" **h**) can be used in four ways. Let us look at the syllables of (" **h**) which use the short vowels. Here the (" **h**) sounds much like the English (**h**).

ha **ha** ayamiha a-ya-mi-ha pray

"◁ "◁ ◁▷Γ"◁ ◁ ▷ Γ "◁

hi **hi** ohi o-hi these

"△ "△ ▷"△ ▷ "△

ho **ho** oho o-ho these

"▷ "▷ ▷"▷ ▷ "▷

Write the 3 syllables of (" h) which use the short vowels.

_____ (English)

_____ (Syllabics)

7. The three syllables which use the short vowels are:

"< ha "Δ hi "> ho

Now let us look at the four syllables of (" h) which use the long vowels.

he he ehe e-he yes

"∇ "∇ ∇"∇ ∇ "∇

hā hā apahā a-pa-hā untie it

"<̇ "<̇ <<"<̇ < < "<̇

hī hī mawacihītowin ma-wa-ci-hī-to-win gathering

"Δ "Δ L<̇̇"Δ̇Δ̇ L <̇̇ "Δ̇ Δ̇

hō hō ohō o-hō owl

"> "> >"> > ">

Write the four syllables of (" h) which use the long vowels.

_____ (English)

_____ (Syllabics)

8. The four syllables of (" h) which use the long vowels are:

"▽ he "◁ hā "△ hī "▷ hō

(" H) is also used after a vowel or as the last letter of a syllable. Then the sound is somewhat different. You bring your tongue almost to the roof of your mouth and breathe out the (" h). Listen when someone does this. This sound is used often in many Cree areas. Other areas do not use it as much.

Try to say these words:

wahwa	wah-wa	◁"◁	oh boy
wīhtamaw	wīh-ta-ma-w	△"CL°	tell it
ahcāhk	ah-cāhk	◁"L ^x	spirit

In what four ways can the letter (" h) be used?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

9. The letter (" h) can be used

- 1) before a vowel
- 2) also after a vowel
- 3) at the end of a syllable
- 4) at the end of a word

Let us catch up on our chart now.

10. You should have added the syllables of (" h) which use the short vowels:

"◁ ha "△ hi "▷ ho

Also the syllables of (" h) which take the long vowels are:

"▽ he "◁^í hā "△ hī "▷ hō

Now let us make some words from the sounds we have learned. We will take four short words today.

These words are: ehe, ohi, oho, ohō

What letter do we find in all four of these words? _____

11. We find the letter (" h) in all four words. Now let us look at the meaning of these words.

ehe ▽"▽ yes

oho ▷"▷ these

ohi ▷"△ these

ohō ▷"▷ owl

Which two words are written the same in the syllabics?

_____ and _____

12. The two words written the same in the syllabics are oho and ohō. We must know the meaning to know the pronunciation of these two words if we see them only in the syllabics.

Match the meaning with the word.

oho _____ owl

ohi _____ yes

ehe _____ these

ohō _____ these

13. Did you get them right?

oho - these; ohi - these; ehe - yes; and ohō - owl.

Now match the words up with the words in the syllabics by writing the syllabic words on the blanks.

ohi _____ ▽"▽

ehe _____ ▷"▷

ohō _____ ▷"△

oho _____ ▷"▷

14. Your answer should look like this:

ohi ▷"△ ehe ▽"▽

ohō ▷"▷ oho ▷"▷

Let us look at a song in Cree:

Kita pe kīsikaw ke mīyweyihṭākwahk
Ekā ke mātoyahk ekā ke nipiyahk
Kahkiyaw mīwāsin kihci kīsikowaskīhk
Tāpwe kita mīyo kīsikaw
Ke mīyo kīsikāhk wāpamaki Jesus
Ke kanawāpamak ana kā pimācihit
E sakicihcenit e kiskinohtahit
Tāpwe kita mīyo kīsikāk.

15. Can you remember all we learned about the (" h)?

What is a consonant? _____

Write the Cree consonants. _ _ _ _ _

What is the sound of (" h)?

In what four ways can the (" h) be used?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Write the syllabics for the syllables of (h).

h ha hi ho he hā hī hō

— — — — — — — —

16. Write the Cree words in syllabics and give the meaning of each word in English.

ehe _____ _____

ohi _____ _____

oho _____ _____

ohō _____ _____

Correct your answers from the next page.

CONSONANTS

A consonant is a partly closed sound in speech. A consonant cannot stand by itself, it always needs a vowel helper.

In the Cree we have only 10 consonants. These are: c, h, k, m, n, p, s, t, w, y.

(" **H**) before a vowel sounds much like the English (**h**).

After a vowel the (**h**) is like breathing out through the mouth with the tongue quite close to the roof of the mouth. (" H) can be used in four ways, before a vowel or after a vowel, at the end of a syllable, and at the end of a word.

The Cree words we learned are these:

ehe	▽"▽	yes
ohi	▷"△	these
oho	▷"▷	these
ohō	▷"▷	owl