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LEARN TO WRITE IN
CREE SYLABICS

Lesson 5

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Lesson 5

THE CONSONANT (M)

L	Ĭ	」	└	┌
MA	MĀ	MO	ME	MI

MI	┌	└	ME
MA	L	」	MO

māka	Ĭb	but
māci	Ĭ┌	beginning
maci	L┌	bad, evil
ki māma	ʔ ĬL	your mother
oma	▷L	this one

1. Let us review what we have learned yesterday.

Write the three syllables of (k) which use the short vowels.

____ _ (English letters)

____ _ (Syllabics)

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

____ _ (English letters)

____ _ (Syllabics)

In what ways is the (k) used?

1) _____ a vowel

2) at the _____ of a word

Write the syllabics and the meaning of these words.

kihci _____

kekāc _____

kākīke _____

cīkī _____

kīoke _____

keko _____

2. Check your answers with the last page of Lesson 4.

Do you remember how to pronounce each vowel?

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 _____

The long vowels are _____

The (∇, e) sounds:

as (ay) in the English word _____

as (∇, e) in the Cree word _____

The long (<í, 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, i) sounds:

as (ee) 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 _____

If you do not remember all of the answers look back at Lesson 1.
Learn these well.

3. If you missed some, turn back to Lesson 1 pages 20 and 21 and write them in.

What is a consonant? _____

4. A consonant is a partly closed sound in speech.

How many consonants are there in English? _____

How many consonants are there in Cree? _____

5. There are 21 consonants in English and 10 in Cree. The Cree consonants are: c, h, k, m, n, p, s, t, w, y.

Write the 10 consonants in Cree. _____

6. The consonants in Cree are: c, h, k, m, n, p, s, t, w, y.

Today we want to learn:

- 1) the consonant of (**m**)
- 2) five Cree words: māka, māci, maci, ki māma, oma

(M) sounds like the (**m**) in English. The (**m**) can be used before all short and long vowels. It can also be used at the end of a word. Sometimes it is used at the end of a syllable.

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

Let us look at the syllables of (m) which use the short vowels. Look carefully at the syllabics.

	┌ ma	┌ mi	└ mo	
ma	ma	manito	ma-ni-to	god
┌	┌	┌σ┐	┌ σ ┐	
mi	mi	mitoni	mi-to-ni	much
┌	┌	┌┐σ	┌ ┐ σ	
mo	mo	mosak	mo-sak	always
└	└	└┐`	└ ┐`	

What is the sound of (m)? _____

7. The sound of (m) is like the English (m). Can you say these words? Ma-ni-to, mi-to-ni and mo-sak?

Write the three syllables of (m) which use the short vowels.

_____ (English letters)

_____ (Syllabics)

8. The three syllables of (m) which use the short vowels are:

┌ **ma** ┌ **mi** └ **mo**

Now let us look at the syllables of (m) which use the long vowels. Note the syllabics.

┐ **me** ḷ **mā** ┌ **mī** └ **mō**

me	me	awasime	a-wa-si-me	more
ᠮᠡ	ᠮᠡ	ᠠᠠᠪᠠᠰᠢᠮᠡ	ᠠᠠᠪᠠ ᠰᠢ ᠮᠡ	
mā	mā	māto	mā-to	cry
ᠮᠠ	ᠮᠠ	ᠮᠠᠲᠤ	ᠮᠠ ᠲᠤ	
mī	mī	mīyiw	mī-yi-w	he gives
ᠮᠢ	ᠮᠢ	ᠮᠢᠶᠢᠪ	ᠮᠢ ᠶᠢ ᠪ	
mō	mō	mōwew	mō-we-w	he eats him
ᠮᠤ	ᠮᠤ	ᠮᠤᠪᠡᠪ	ᠮᠤ ᠪᠡ ᠪ	

Write the four syllables of (m) which use the long vowels.
(English letters)

(English letters)

(Syllabics)

9. The four syllables of (m) which use the long vowels are:

ᠮᠡ **me** ᠮᠠ **mā** ᠮᠢ **mī** ᠮᠤ **mō**

When (m) is at the end of a word it still has the same sound. If it is at the end of a word, it forms a syllable with the syllable or vowel before it.

When the (m) is used at the end of a word, it is written (ᠮᠤᠮᠤᠮᠤ) in syllabics.

wāpahtam wā-pah-tam he sees it

ᠠᠢᠫᠠᠬᠲᠠᠮᠤᠮᠤᠮᠤᠮᠤ ᠠᠢᠫᠠᠬᠲᠠ ᠮᠤᠮᠤᠮᠤᠮᠤ

itōtam i-tō-tam he does it

ᠢᠲᠤᠲᠠᠮᠤᠮᠤᠮᠤᠮᠤ ᠢᠲᠤᠲᠠ ᠮᠤᠮᠤᠮᠤᠮᠤ

Write the syllables of (m) in English letters and also in syllabics.

consonant short vowels

long vowels

a i o e ā ī ō

m _____

m _____

10. Did you add the short vowels?

┌ ma ┌ mi ┌ mo

How about the long vowels?

┌ me ┌ mā ┌ mī ┌ mō

Write the syllabic form of (m) when it is used at the end of a word.

11. The syllabic form of (m) when used at the end of a word is (ᵐ).

In what three ways is the (m) used?

- 1) _____ a vowel
- 2) at the end of a _____
- 3) sometimes at the end of a _____

12. The (m) is used before a vowel, at the end of a word, and sometimes at the end of a syllable.

Look at the word (itōtam - he does it). If we say, (itōtamwak - they do it), the (m) is at the end of a syllable. We will look at the writing in syllabics in a later lesson.

Try to read these words:

māka	mā-ka	Ìb	but
maci	ma-ci	LΓ	evil, bad
māci	mā-ci	ÌΓ	begin
ki māma	ki mā-ma	P ÌLL	your mother
oma	o-ma	▷L	this one

Did you read them to someone who understands Cree? Could they understand you?

13. Write these five words on cards again, just like you did in the last lesson.

Two words, (maci) and (māci) look very much alike. Is the meaning of these two words the same?

(Maci) means _____

(Māci) means _____

14. The meaning of (maci) and (māci) is not the same.

They are very different. (Maci) means bad or evil and (māci) means to begin.

Match the following words by writing the syllabics on the blanks.

_____	māka	LΓ
_____	maci	ÌΓ
_____	māci	▷L
_____	ki māma	Ìb
_____	oma	P ÌLL

15. Your answer should be like this:

māka	Ĭb	maci	Lᵐ
māci	Ĭᵐ	oma	▷L
ki māma	ᵑ ĬL		

Add the new syllabics to the chart you have started to make.

consonant	short vowels			long vowels			
	a	i	o	e	ā	ī	ō
c	ca	ci	co	ce	cā	cī	cō
-	ᵐ	ᵐ	ᵐ	ᵐ	ᵐ	ᵐ	ᵐ
h	ha	hi	ho	he	hā	hī	hō
"	"◁	"△	"▷	"▽	"◁̇	"△̇	"▷̇
k	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
k	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
m	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
m	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

16. See how many syllabics you have filled in now?

Check with your syllabic chart to make sure you have used the right syllabics.

Now let us review what we have learned today.

What is the sound of (m)? _____

Write the three syllables of (m) which use the short vowels.

_____ (English letters)

_____ (Syllabics)

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

_____ (English letters)

_____ (Syllabics)

Write the syllabic form of (m) when it is used at the end of a word.

In what three ways is the (m) used?

- 1) _____ a vowel
- 2) at the end of a _____
- 3) sometimes at the end of a _____

Write the syllabics for the words we have learned today.

_____ māka

_____ maci

_____ māci

_____ oma

_____ ki māma

Check your work with the answers on the next page.

THE CONSONANT (M)

The sound of (m) is the same as the English.

The (m) is used before all short and long vowels and at the end of a word. When it is used at the end of a word, it forms a syllable with the vowel or syllable before it. Sometimes it is used at the end of a syllable.

The three syllables of (m) which use the short vowels are:

┌ ma ┌ mi ┘ mo

The four syllables of (m) which use the long vowels are:

┘ me Ḷ mā ┌ mī ┘ mō

The syllabic form of (m) when used at the end of a word is (ᶑ).

The words which we learned today are:

māka	mā-ka	Ḷb	but
maci	ma-ci	┌ᶑ	evil, bad
māci	mā-ci	Ḷᶑ	begin
oma	o-ma	▷┌	this one
ki māma	ki mā-ma	ᶑ ḶḶ	your mother