

The Mescalero Apache Alphabet -- Introduction

In the following table, we include combinations of Apache consonants and vowels. Usually when we write words in the Apache language, we use one letter to represent one sound. In these cases, one letter = one sound. **b**, **d**, and **g**, for example, are single letters that we use to represent single sounds. Sometimes, however, we use two letters in combination to represent one sound in Apache. In these cases, two letters = one sound. **t'**, **ts**, **ch**, and **tã** are examples of two letter combinations that we use to represent single Apache sounds. Finally, we sometimes use three letters to represent a single sound. In these cases, three letters = one sound. **ts'**, **ch'**, and **tã** are examples of three letter combinations that we use to represent single Apache sounds. To summarize by example, **t** is a single sound represented by one letter. **ts** is a single sound represented by two letters. And, **ts'** is a single sound represented by three letters.

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Consonant and Vowel Combinations					
Number	Consonants	Vowels			
		a (a vowel as in the English words <u>f</u> ather and <u>b</u> ought)	e (a vowel as in the English words <u>v</u> et and <u>b</u> et)	i (a vowel as in the English word, <u>b</u> ee <u>t</u>)	u (a vowel as in the English word, <u>b</u> oo <u>t</u>)
1	b	ba	be	bi	bu
2	ch	cha	che	chi	chu
3	ch'	ch'a	ch'e	ch'i	ch'u
4	d	da	de	di	du
5	dz	dza	dze	dzi	dzu
6	dl	dla	dle	dli	dlu
7	g	ga	ge	gi	gu
8	gh	gha	ye	yi	wu
9	h	ha	he	hi	hu
10	j	ja	je	ji	ju
11	k	ka	ke	ki	ku
12	k'	k'a	k'e	k'i	k'u
13	l	la	le	li	lu
14	ã	ãa	ãe	ãi	ãu
15	m	ma	me	mi	mu
16	mb	mba	mbe	mbi	mbu
17	n	na	ne	ni	nu
18	nd	nda	nde	ndi	ndu
19	s	sa	se	si	su

INTRODUCTION TO THE APACHE ALPHABET**Consonant and Vowel Combinations**

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		a (a vowel as in the English words <u>f</u> ather and <u>b</u> ought)	e (a vowel as in the English words <u>v</u> et and <u>b</u> et)	i (a vowel as in the English word, <u>b</u> ee <u>t</u>)	u (a vowel as in the English word, <u>b</u> oo <u>t</u>)
20	sh	sha	she	shi	shu
21	t	ta	te	ti	tu
22	t'	t'a	t'e	t'i	t'u
23	tā	tāa	tāe	tāi	tāu
24	tā	tāa	tāe	tāi	tāu
25	ts	tsa	tse	tsi	tsu
26	ts'	ts'a	ts'e	ts'i	ts'u
27	x	xa	xe	xi	xu
28	y	ya	ye	yi	yu
29	z	za	ze	zi	zu
30	zh	zha	zhe	zhi	zhu
31	'	'a'a	'e'e	'i'i	'u'u

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Oral and Nasal Vowels				
Number	Description	Oral Vowel	Nasal Vowel	Oral Vowel + Glottal Stop ['] + Nasal Vowel
32	a (a vowel as in the English words <u>f</u> ather and <u>b</u> ought)	a	à	a'à
33	e (a vowel as in the English words <u>v</u> et and <u>b</u> et)	e	è	e'è
34	i (a vowel as in the English word, <u>b</u> ee <u>t</u>)	i	ì	i'ì
35	u (a vowel as in the English word, <u>b</u> oo <u>t</u>)	u	ù	u'ù

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High and Low Tone Vowels				
Number	Description	Low Tone Vowel + Glottal Stop ['] + Low Tone Vowel	Low Tone Vowel + Glottal Stop ['] + High Tone Vowel	High Tone Vowel + Glottal Stop ['] + Low Tone Vowel
36	a (a vowel as in the English words <u>f</u> ather and <u>b</u> ought)	a'a	a'á	á'a
37	e (a vowel as in the English words <u>v</u> et and <u>b</u> et)	e'e	e'é	é'e
38	i (a vowel as in the English word, <u>b</u> ee <u>t</u>)	i'i	i'í	í'i
39	u (a vowel as in the English word, <u>b</u> oo <u>t</u>)	u'u	u'ú	ú'u

