

The Mescalero Apache Alphabet -- Syllables

In each cell of the following table, we provide: (1) a word written in the Mescalero Apache alphabet, (2) a representation of how to pronounce that word, (3) a representation of the word's syllable structure, and (4) an English translation of the word. We put the word's pronunciation in square brackets []. We indicate the break between two syllables by inserting a period between them. We represent syllables using C for "consonant" and V for "vowel." We represent both short and long vowels with a single capital V. We place the English translation in quotation marks. When reading this table, remember that sometimes one character represents a single consonant. For example, [k] represents a single consonant. Sometimes two characters stand for a single consonant. For example, [k'] represents a single consonant. In addition, sometimes three characters stand for a single consonant. For example, [ch'] stands for a single consonant. Here, we represent each of those and other similar symbols in the Apache alphabet using a single capital C.

Mescalero Apache Syllables			
One Syllable	Two Syllables	Three Syllables	Four or More Syllables
<p>tú [tú] CV "water"</p>	<p>shimá [shi.má] CV.CV "my mother"</p> <p>Note: In shimá, [sh] represents a single consonant.</p>	<p>ãtsûúyé [ã.tsûú.yé] CV.CV.CV "yellowish"</p> <p>Note: In ãtsûúyé, [ts] represents a single consonant.</p>	<p>biãgútù-gu [biãgú.tù.gu] CVC.CV.CV.CV "angrily, while being angry"</p>
<p>bii' [bii'] CVC "deer"</p> <p>Note: The glottal stop ['] is a full</p>	<p>gaa'ye [gaa'.ye] CVC.CV "crow"</p>	<p>ntù-'í [n.tù.'í] C.CV.CV "evil things, bad things"</p> <p>Note: The first syllable here is a low tone</p>	<p>nkédee'tāsh [n.ké.dee'.tāsh] C.CV.CVC.CVC "he/she/it fell"</p> <p>Note: The first syllable here is a low tone "syllabic nasal</p>

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<p>consonant in Mescalero Apache.</p>		<p>"syllabic nasal consonant." This syllable has no vowel. Note: The glottal stop ['] is a full consonant in Mescalero Apache.</p>	<p>consonant." This syllable does not have a vowel. Note: The glottal stop ['] is a full consonant in Mescalero Apache. Note: In nkédee'tāsh, [tā] represents a single consonant.</p>
<p>tái' "three, 3" [tái'] CVC Note: The glottal stop ['] is a full consonant in Mescalero Apache.</p>	<p>nzhû "he/she/it is good" [n.zhû] C.CV Note: The first syllable is a low tone syllabic nasal consonant. This syllable has no vowel. Note: Many people pronounce this word as hnzhû [hn.zhû]. They pronounce the low tone syllabic nasal as [hn].</p>	<p>hanshtāashú' [hansh.tāa.shú'] CVCC.CV.CVC "on the left side, toward the left side, on the left side instead" Note: In hanshtāashú', [tā] represents a single consonant.</p>	<p>ndéda'aāchù' [n.dé.da.'aāchù'] C.CV.CV.CVC.CVC "you^{>2} be respectful to people" Note: The first syllable here is a low tone syllabic nasal consonant. This syllable does not have a vowel. Note: The glottal stop ['] is a full consonant in Mescalero Apache. Note: In ndéda'aāchù', [ch] represents a single consonant.</p>

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	<p>Note: In nzhû, [zh] represents a single consonant.</p>		
<p>chish [chish] CVC "wood, firewood"</p> <p>Note: In chish, [ch] and [sh] both represent single consonants.</p>	<p>kuughà [kuu.ghà] CV.CV "home, teepee"</p> <p>Note: In kuughà, [gh] represents a single consonant.</p> <p>Note: People also pronounce this word as kuuwà [kuu.wà] or kùuwà [kùu.wà].</p>	<p>sha'õ'aa' [sha'.õ.'aa'] CVC.C.CVC "you lend it to me"</p> <p>Note: The glottal stop ['] is a full consonant in Mescalero Apache.</p> <p>Note: The second syllable is a high tone syllabic nasal consonant. This syllable has no vowel.</p>	<p>nahúshch'ishí [na.húsh.ch'i.shí] CV.CVC.CV.CV "you² (dual) come here"</p> <p>Note: In nahúshch'ishí, [sh] and [ch'] represent single consonants.</p>
<p>bààs [bààs] CVC "wagon, car, vehicle"</p>	<p>guu'du [guu'.du] CVC.CV "it is hot" (a space, a place, the environment, the weather)</p>	<p>shá'áã [shá.'á.ã] CV.CV.CV "you² (dual) do it for me"</p>	<p>náánadaiduustséã [náá.na.dai.duus.tséã] CV.CV.CV.CVC.CVC "I will see you^{>2} (plural) again"</p> <p>Note: Here, we treat the vowel combination [ai] as a single vowel.</p>

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		<p>Note: The glottal stop ['] is a full consonant in Mescalero Apache.</p>	<p>Note: In náánadaiduustséã [ts] represents a single consonant.</p>
<p>biã [biã] CVC "with him/her/it" "accompanying him/her/it"</p>	<p>'in'ăxăsh ['in'ăxăsh] CVCC.CVC "you (singular) go to sleep" <p>Note: This word may be pronounced [n'ăxăsh] CC.CVC <p>Note: In the second pronunciation, [n'] is a syllabic nasal consonant and the syllable [n'ă] has no vowel.</p> </p></p>	<p>'égúúădii' ['é.gúúădii'] CV.CVC.CVC "I am finished" <p>Note: The glottal stop ['] is a full consonant in Mescalero Apache.</p> </p>	<p>naanánaaăda [naa.ná.naaăda] CV.CV.CVC.CV "you^{>2} walk around"</p>
<p>ăesh [ăesh] CVC "dirt"</p>	<p>'ii' dă ['ii'.dă] CVC.CV "let's (we²) eat", "we² are eating"</p>	<p>naiwuu'í [nai.wuu.'í] CV.CV.CV "our² teeth, your² teeth"</p>	<p>'ik'e'ăót'é ['i.k'e.'ăót'é] CV.CV.CVC.CV "you behave" (2nd person singular)</p>

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<p>Note: In ãesh, [sh] represents a single consonant.</p>	<p>Note: The glottal stop ['] is a full consonant in Mescalero Apache.</p>	<p>Note: Here, we treat the vowel combination [ai] as a single vowel.</p> <p>Note: People also pronounce naiwuu'í as naiwu'í [nai.wu.'í].</p>	<p>Note: In 'ik'e'áó't'é, [k'] and [t'] represent single consonants.</p>