

The Mescalero Apache Alphabet -- Vowels

This table provides examples of Apache words with different vowels. For each word, we provide the correct spelling, pronunciation, and English translation. We represent the pronunciation in square brackets []. We insert a period [.] to mark the boundary between syllables. We place the English translation in quotation marks ["].

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a		
is pronounced similarly to the English "a" in "father", the "au" in "caught", and the "o" in "pot." a occurs in Apache words such as:		
Spelling	Pronunciation	Translation
'ádá	['á.dá]	"then" (in the past) "at that time" (in the past)
'adââdá (or) 'adââ	['a.dââ.dá] (or) ['a.dââ]	"yesterday"
'adí	['a.dí]	"this thing, this object"
'ádi	['á.dí]	"fog"
'ádi dada'ajuã	['á.dí da.da.'a.juã]	"fog is floating" "it is foggy"
'adiõ	['a.díõ]	"this person"
'á'ee'	['á.'ee']	"over there"
'anee'	['a.nee']	"over there"
'a'í	['a.'í]	"that thing, that object"
ndásá	[n.dá.sá]	"farther"
'aká	['a.ká]	"over there"
'aní	['a.ní]	"that thing, that object"
'aa'õ	['aa'.õ]	"that person"
'aa'õde	['aa'.õ.de]	"those people"

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Spelling	Pronunciation	Translation
'áshíí	['á.shíí]	"and also"
'au'	['au']	"yes"
dák'asá	[dák.k'a.sá]	"almost"
naa'āì	[naa'ā̀tì]	"it is raining"
yayá	[ya.yá]	"inside"
zas	[zas]	"snow"
zas naa'āì	[zas naa'ā̀tì]	"it is snowing"

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e

is pronounced similarly to the English -e- in "set", "bet", "beg", and "egg." **e** occurs in Apache words such as:

Spelling	Pronunciation	Translation
dáã'é	[dã.ã.'é]	"one"
dibéé	[di.béé]	"sheep"
dinéede	[di.née.de]	"money"
'éächiné	['éãchi.né]	"baby"
'éã's'ûúzé	['éãts'ûû.zé]	"he/she/it is thin" "they ² are thin" (referring to two non-Native people, two animals, or two objects)
'éde	['é.de]	"clothing"
'é'dish'a	['é'.dish.'a]	"I am singing the prayer part of a blessing song"
'édishkaã	['é.dish.kaã]	"I am being smarty"
'é'disuuã	['é'.di.suu'ã]	"I am whistling"

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is pronounced similarly to the English -e- in "set", "bet", "beg", and "egg." e occurs in Apache words such as:

Spelling	Pronunciation	Translation
'édit'ñ-da	['é.di.t'ñ.da]	"no respect" "the nerve"
'égúúãdì'	['é.gúúãdì']	"I am finished"
'éguush'aa'	['é.guu'sh.'aa']	"I am learning"
'énúúsdi'	['é.núús.di']	"he/she/it disappeared" "they ² disappeared" (referring to two non-Native people, two animals, or two objects)
'éõdish't'ì'	['éõ.dish.t'ì']	"I am mean"
'étsu	['é.tsu]	"jacket" "coat"
'é'zúúlé	['é'.zúú.lé]	"he/she/it is light" (not heavy) "they ² are light" (referring to two non-Native people, two animals, or two objects)

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i

is a vowel usually pronounced similarly to the English -i- in "bit", "fit" and "mitt." It is sometimes pronounced similarly to the English -ee- in "beet", "meet", and "feet."

Spelling	Pronunciation	Translation
bini'	[bi.ni']	"his/her/its face"
'iãì'	['iãtì']	"bow" "gun"
'i'i'áne	['i.'i'.á.ne]	"cave" "hole"

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is a vowel usually pronounced similarly to the English -i- in "bit", "fit" and "mitt." It is sometimes pronounced similarly to the English -ee- in "beet", "meet", and "feet."

Spelling	Pronunciation	Translation
'iiyâ	['ii.yâ]	"he/she/it is eating" "they ² are eating" (referring to two non-Native People)
'ik'aa'	['i.k'aa']	"arrow" "bullet"
'inádlu	['i.ná.dlu]	"he/she is laughing" "they ² are laughing" (referring to two non-Native people)
'inee'	['i.nee']	"right here"
'isdzââ'	['is.dzââ']	"woman"
'ít'a	['í.t'a]	"still"
'iyáné	['i.yá.né]	"buffalo" "cow"
'iyénãts'à	['i.yénãts'à]	"you listen" (spoken to one person)
'izhee'	['i.zhee']	"yucca root shampoo" "shampoo" "foam"
shitsii'	[shi.tsii']	"my head"
t'iis	[t'iis]	"cottonwood tree"

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u

is pronounced similarly to the English "oo" in "boot", "loot", and "toot." It is pronounced similarly to the English "u" in "nuke" and "Luke." **u** is present in Apache words such as:

Spelling	Pronunciation	Translation
dudu-gayuã	[du.du.ga.yuã]	"the powerful wind is coming"
dudu-guu'du	[du.du.guu'.du]	"it is very hot" (speaking about the weather or a space -- the environment)
dúuãkuu'	[dúuãkuu']	"right now"
du-dúuãkuu'-da	[du.dúuãkuu'.da]	"not now"
guu'k'as	[guu'.k'as]	"it is cold" (speaking about the weather or a space -- the environment)
kuughà (or) kuuwà	[kuughà] (or) [kuu.wà]	"home" "teepee"
'úãa	['úãa]	"you read" (spoken to one person) "he/she is reading" "they ² are reading" (referring to two non-Natives people)
'útsa	['ú.tsa]	"buckskin dress"
'úúãdéã	['úúãdéã]	"I threw it down" (a rope-like object) "I threw them ² down" (two objects)
'uuãdéã	['uuãdéã]	"We ² threw it down" (a rope-like object) "We ² threw them ² down" (two objects)
'úú'ìì'	['úú.'ìì']	"I put it inside" (a small or indefinite object)
'úújaash	['úú.jaa'sh]	"I put them ^{>2} inside" (three or more objects)
'uu'ka	['uu'.ka]	"we ^{>2} did leave" (three or more people) "we ^{>2} left (three or more people)
'úúkâ	['úú.kâ]	"I drank" (from a shallow, open container)

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Spelling	Pronunciation	Translation
'izee' 'úúõdiã	['i.zee' 'úúõ.diã]	"I threw medicine in my mouth" (three or more pills) "I took pills" (three or more pills)
'úús'a	['úús.'a]	"a long time passed" "much time passed"
'uut'ásh	['uu.t'ásh]	"we ² did leave" (two people) "we ² left" (two people)