Spelling Manual
For
Eastern James Bay
Cree Syllabics

Northern Dialect

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Introduction

People have been writing syllabics using their own style, depending on where they learned the system, which community they come from, how old they are and what pronunciation they use. This manual has been prepared to help people write the Cree syllabics in a more consistent way.

Cree Language and Culture teachers and linguists together with the Education Consultants in Cree Programs have been working toward a consistent spelling system for the Southern and for the Northern dialects for many years. The process is still ongoing and this manual is updated periodically. There have been spelling revisions since the first Cree Lexicon was published in 1987, and these revisions have been incorporated into all the dictionaries published in 2004, 2012, 2013 as well as the web version: dictionary.eastcree.org, which contains the latest revisions.

Although each Cree community in the James Bay area has its own distinct style of speaking the language, there are two main dialects of Cree with different pronunciations, so there are two main ways of spelling - Northern and Southern.

Syllabics Chart - Eastern James Bay

Finals

	e	we	i	ii	u	uu	a	aa	waa	Finals	
	▽ e		△ i	△̇ ii	▷ u	▷̇ uu	◁ a	◁̇ aa		° u (w)	" h
	▽̇ we		△̇ wi	△̇ wii			◁̇ wa	◁̇ waa			
p	∨ pe	∨̇ pwe	∧ pi	∧̇ pii	> pu	>̇ puu	< pa	<̇ paa	<̇ pwaa	< p	
t	∪ te	∪̇ twe	∩ ti	∩̇ tii	⊃ tu	⊃̇ tuu	C ta	Ċ taa	Ċ twaa	c t	
k	٩ ke	٩̇ kwe	ρ ki	ρ̇ kii	ᑫ ku	ᑫ̇ kuu	ᑭ ka	ᑮ kaa	ᑮ kwaa	ᑮ k	ᑯ kw
ch	∩ che	∩̇ chwe	⌐ chi	⌐̇ chii	⊃ chu	⊃̇ chuu	∪ cha	∪̇ chaa	∪̇ chwaa	∪ ch	
m	⌐ me	⌐̇ mwe	Γ mi	Γ̇ mii	⌐ mu	⌐̇ muu	L ma	L̇ maa	L̇ mwaa	L m	
l	⊃ le	⊃̇ lwe	⊂ li	⊂̇ lii	⊃ lu	⊃̇ luu	⊏ la	⊏̇ laa	⊏̇ lwaa	⊏ l	
n	ᓇ ne	ᓇ̇ nwe	σ ni	σ̇ nii	ᓄ nu	ᓄ̇ nuu	ᓇ na	ᓈ naa	ᓈ̇ nwaa	ᓇ n	
s	ᔅ se	ᔅ̇ swe	ᔅ si	ᔅ̇ sii	ᔥ su	ᔥ̇ suu	ᔅ sa	ᔅ̇ saa	ᔅ̇ swaa	ᔅ s	
sh	ᔑ she	ᔑ̇ shwe	ᔑ shi	ᔑ̇ shii	ᔓ shu	ᔓ̇ shuu	ᔕ sha	ᔕ̇ shaa	ᔕ̇ shwaa	ᔖ sh	
y	ᔦ ye	ᔦ̇ ywe	ᔨ yi	ᔨ̇ yii	ᔪ yu	ᔪ̇ yuu	ᔭ ya	ᔮ yaa	ᔮ̇ ywaa	ᔾ y	
r	ᕃ re	ᕃ̇ rwe	ᕆ ri	ᕆ̇ rii	ᕈ ru	ᕈ̇ ruu	ᕋ ra	ᕌ raa	ᕌ̇ rwaa	ᕐ r	
v	∨ ve	∨̇ vwe	ᐱ vi	ᐱ̇ vii	> vu	>̇ vuu	< va	<̇ vaa	<̇ vwaa	ᐚ v, f, ph	
th	∪ the	∪̇ thwe	ᖐ thi	ᖐ̇ thii	ᑐ thu	ᑐ̇ thuu	C tha	Ċ thaa	Ċ̇ thwaa	ᖨ th	

Part One: Dialect Differences

1.1 The syllabic chart

The full syllabic chart shows all the symbols that are used in writing Eastern James Bay Cree. Some symbols are used only in the Southern dialect, not in the Northern - as explained below.

1.2 North - South differences

Speakers from Wemindji, Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui, and sometimes Eastmain use ◁⋅, ⋖, ⋗, ⊔̇, L̇, ȧ, ᒡ̇, ⋰ instead of ▽, ∨, ∪, ᒋ, �, ᔨ, ᒡ, ᔅ.

Southern	Northern
▽ᒥ"ḃᵃ	◁˙ᒥ"ḃᵃ
∨ᒡᵈ	⋖ᐳᵈ
∪˙▽"ᐃ̇bᵃ	Ċ˙◁"ᐃ̇Pᵃ
ᖅᵃ˙◁<L̇ᶜ	ḃᓂ˙◁∧L̇ᶜ
ᒋ˙ḃᵃ	⊔̇˙ḃᵃ
ᒪᒋ∧ᓒᵃ	L̇L̇∧ᓒᵃ
ᒧ˙◁ᔾᵒ	ȧ˙◁ᔾᵒ
ᔨᑎᒡᶠ	ᒡ̇ᑎᓒᵒ
ᔅᔅ⋰	⋰⋰ᓖᵒ
ᔦḃᵒ	ᒡ̇ḃᵒ

The Northern speakers do not use ⋖, ⊂, ḃ, ⊔, L, ᴀ, ᒡ, ᔅ, ᔦ but instead use ∧, ∩, ᑭ, ᑎ, ᒥ, ᓂ, ᓒ, ᐸ.

Southern	Northern
⋖ᑯᒧᒡ̇ᵒ	∧ᑯȧ̇ᒡ̇ᵒ
⊂"ḃᒡ̇ᵒ	∩"ḃᒡ̇ᵒ
ḃ⋖ᶜ	ᑭ∧ᶜ
⊔"ḃ∨ᔅ	ᑎ"ḃ⋖ᔅ
Lᓒᴀ"ᐃ̇bᵃ	ᒥᓒᒥ"ᐃ̇Pᵃ
ᴀᒋᔅ	ᒥL̇ᔅ
ᔨḃᵒ	ᓒḃᵒ
ᔅ˙▽ᐸᒋᵒ	ᓒ˙◁ᐸL̇ᵒ

ᔕ"ᒋᖃᒪ   ᕒ"ᒋᓂᒪ

However, ◀ is used in both Northern and Southern dialects at the beginning of a word, and   after **"** in VTI verbs.

Southern   **Northern**

◀ᑎ"ᑯ   ◀ᑎ"ᑯ

◀ᒥ�\ᑯ   ◀ᒥ\ᑯ

◀ᒥ"ᑯ   ◀ᒥ"ᑯ

ᐅᐧᒐᒪ"◀ᒪ   ᐅᐧᒐᒥ"◀ᒪ

1.3   Eastmain speakers

In Eastmain, speakers use both Southern and Northern pronunciations since the community is on the boundary of the two dialect areas. These pronunciations are evident in a single word and show up in the written form using both dialects.

1.4   ᔕ, ᕆ, ᕌ, ᔕ, ᐧ and ᓯ, ᔌ, ᓇ, ᓴ, ᓭ

Both these sets are used in writing East Cree words. In some communities speakers do not pronounce the ᓯ, ᔌ, ᓇ, ᓴ, ᓭ the same way as other communities and may want to check their spelling with the dictionary.

ᔕ ᕆ ᕌ ᔕ ᐧ   ᓯ ᔌ ᓇ ᓴ ᓭ

ᔕᐧ   ᓯᓄᑦ

ᕆ\ᑭ"ᐅᐁ   ᔌᖳᑯ

ᕌᐅᐧᑎ\   ᔌᔌᑯᐁ

ᕌ"ᒋᕌᐤ   ᐃᕒᓇᑎᒪ

ᕌ<   ᓇᖳᐤ

ᔕᒋᕆᐤ   ᓴᓭ

Part Two: ᒥᐦᑭᕃᐨᑭᕐᐦ The Use of Dots

2.1 Dots over a syllabic symbol

The dot above a syllabic symbol marks a long vowel.

Short (no dot)		Long (dot)	
i	ᐃᕍ�dᐨᐤ	ii	ᐩᐃᔆᔆᐤ
wi	ᐧᐃᓕᑭᐊ	wii	ᐧᐩᐃᒥᓂ�ᐠ
pi	ᐱᒥᐱᔆᐤ	pii	ᐱᐩᒥᐱᔆᐤ
ti	ᐣᐸᐊ	tii	ᐣᐩᐧᐸᐨ
ki	ᑭᐱᐨ	kii	ᐅᔄᐱᐩ
chi	ᒋᐧᐠᐤ	chii	ᒋᐩᐠᐤ
mi	ᒥᐣᔓ	mii	ᒥᐩᐣᔓ
ni	ᓂᐱ	nii	ᓂᐩᐱ
si	ᔕᔄᕽ	sii	ᔄᐅᐡᕽ
shi	ᔕᑲᑯ	shii	ᔄᑭᐦᐅ
u	ᐅᐦᐱᐦᐅ	uu	ᐅᐩᐨ
pu	ᐳᐧᐊᐨᐤ	puu	ᐳᐩᐧᐦᐤ
tu	ᐁᐦᐅᐣᒪ	tuu	ᐅᐩᐦᐧᐊᐊ
ku	ᑯᐣᐱᐤ	kuu	ᑯᐩᐊ
chu	ᒍᐧᐧᐊ᷄ᑲ	chuu	ᒍᐩᐊᔆᔆᐤ
mu	ᒣᐦᕽᑯ	muu	ᒣᐩᕽ
nu	ᓄᐧᐊᔓ	nuu	ᓄᐩᐦᑐᔆᐤ
su	ᐱᒍᐦᐨᐤ	suu	ᐱᐩᐦᐣᒪ
shu	ᔕᕽᐧᐊᐤ	shuu	ᕽᕽᐁᐦᑯᐤ
yu	ᒥᑐᕽᑭᒥᑯᐤ	yuu	ᐩᐣᐊ

	Short (no dot)		Long (dot)
a	⊲ᑉᑯ	aa	⊲̇�ᑉᑯ
a	⊲ᐱ°	waa	·⊲̇ᒫ
a	▷Ċᒋᐧ⊲ᒫ	paa	⊀ᐧᖯᑐᒫ
a	⊲̇ᐧ ᑉᐱᐧ⊲ᒋᕋ	taa	Ċᐧᑉᐦ̇°
		kaa	ᖯᐦᑉᐦ̇°
		chaa	ᒉ̇·ᖯᕋ
		maa	ᒪ̇ᑉ°
		naa	ȯᒃ⊀̇°
		saa	ᔅᑉ·⊲̇ᐱᒪ̇°
		shaa	ᒷ·ᖯᐳ⌐
		yaa	ᔓᔓ°

Note: there is a difference in pronunciation between Wemindji and Chisasibi for the command (imperative) verbs in the VTI (acting on an inanimate object) conjugation, such as ▷Ċᒋᐧ⊲ᒫₓ The command form for 'you (singular) hit it' is ▷Ċᒋᐧ⊲̇ᐧ for Wemindji, but sounds like ▷Ċᒪ̇ᐧ for Chisasibi.

▷Ċᒋᐧ⊲̇ᐧ ⊲ᕋ ᒋᓪᑎᑯₓ   ▷Ċᒪ̇ᐧ ⊲ᕋ ᒋᓪᑎᑯₓ

2.2   Dots in front of a syllabic symbol

Dots are written before a syllabic symbol and indicate a *w* sound before the vowel, and after the consonant.

No w (no dot in front)		**w (dot in front)**	
i	∆ᓇᑯĊ°	wi	·∆ᑉ
ii	∆̇⊀ᑎᕋ	wii	·∆̇ᐱᒫ
aa	⊲̇ᐱᑎᕋ	waa	·⊲̇ᐱᕋ
paa	⊀̇Ċ°	pwaa	·⊀̇ᕆᑕ
taa	Ċ̇ᐧᑉᐦ̇°	twaa	·Ċ̇ᒉᕋ
kaa	ᖯ̇·⊲̇°	kwaa	·ᖯ̇ᐱᒉ°
chaa	ᒉ̇ᖯ	chwaa	·ᒉ̇ᕋ
maa	ᒪ̇ᖯ	mwaa	·ᒪ̇ᑯ
naa	ᑉ̇ᐦ̇°	nwaa	ᑉ·ᐦ̇°
yaa	ᒋᔓ°	ywaa	ᒋ·ᔓᒉ°

Part Three: Syllabic Finals

The syllabic finals are a small version of the last column of regular size symbols on the chart. They are used mainly at the ends of words. ˋ and ᵒ and ⁿ are also used in the middle of words. The syllabic finals may be used alone or in a set of two or three, but no more than three in a row are used. When there are three in a row, the last one is always **ⁿ.**

3.1   Small syllabic symbols at the end of a word:

One final	**Two finals**	**Three finals**
ȯ‹ᵒ	ȯ‹ᵒⁿ	◁ᑯⁿ‹ⁿ
▷ˋḃᶜ	◁ᑯⁿ‹	ᒉⁿᶜⁿ
ᐃᶫᵇ	ᒉ‹ⁿ	·ᐃᵒᶜⁿ
◁ᶫᵈ	Ċᐃˋ‹	▷ȯᵒᵇⁿ
·◁ᶫ	▷ˋḃᶜⁿ	ᓂˋᵇⁿ
◁ᶥᶫ	ᒉⁿᶜ	◁ᑎⁿᵈⁿ
◁ᑎᶫ	·ᐃᵒᶜ	◁ᒉˋᵈⁿ
▷Ċ‹ᵅ	∧ᵒᶫ	ᑕᶥᵧᵒᵈⁿ
ᒉĊˋ	Ċ‹ᶫⁿᑎⁿᵇ	▷ᑎˋᶫⁿ
◁·◁ᒍᵒ	ᓂˋᵇ	ᐃᶫĊ‹ȯˋᵈⁿ
ᒉᑎⁿᶦⁿ	·ᐃᓂᵒᵈ	▷ᶦᵒᶦᵒᵇⁿ

3.2 No ᴸ or ᵃ in the middle of a word

Do not write the small syllabic finals ᴸ and ᵃ in words like these:

Write…	**Not…**
ĊσĊ"	ĊᵃĊ"
◁σĊ"	◁ᵃĊ"
L̇σṖ	L̇ᵃṖ
L̇σĊ°	L̇ᵃĊ°
σᑎᑯ	ᵃᑎᑯ
σ⊃"ᑯᐣᵃ	ᵃ⊃"ᑯᐣᵃ
σ⊃"ᑎᴸ	ᵃ⊃"ᑎᴸ
σᐦ"▷	ᵃᐦ"▷
ȦĊᒥ<ᑯᴵᴸ/σĊᒥ<ᑯᴵᴸ	ȦĊᴸ<ᑯᴵᴸ
∧ᒥ∧ᐱ°	∧ᴸ∧ᐱ°
◁ᒥ∧ᐱ°	◁ᴸ∧ᐱ°

3.3 ᑲ and ᑯ at the end of a word

Most words end in ᑯ, only a small number end in ᑲ.

L̇ᑲ	·L̇ᑯ
ᑯᑎᑲ	ᒥσᕥᑎᑯ
Ȧᕧᑯᑎᑲ	Ȧᐱᓴ"ᑎᑯ
i̇ᑲ	i̇ᑯ
▷i̇ᑲ	ᒥᐢi̇ᑯ
∧ᓴ"ᑎ"ᑲ	Ȧσ<ᑯ
▷ȯᕧᑲ	Ȧσᕧᑯ
ᑯᑲ	ᒥᐱᓴσᑯ
ᓇ·◁ᐱᒥᑲ	·◁ᕌσ"Ċᖰȧ∧ᕥᑯ
ᐧᐧ"ᑲ	◁ᒍ"ᑯ
∧i̇△ᑲ	ᒥσ"Ȧᑯ
<σṖᑲ	ḃᑯ
ꓴ·◁ᕧᑲ	ᑎᓴᕧᑯ
▷ᐢᕌᐢᑲ	◁·<ȧᐢᑯ
L̇ᐢṖᐢᑲ	·◁∧ᐢᑯ
Ȧᐱᑲ	ᑯ△ᐢᑯ

You must pay attention to ᑯ and ᑫ at the end of verbs.

ᑫ ᑭᓂ·ᐊᔾ"ᑎ"ᑫ   ᑫ ᑭᓂ·ᐊᔾ"ᑎᒫᑯ

ᑫ ᐅᒉᒥ"ᐊ"ᑫ / ᑫ ᐅᒉᒪ"ᑫ   ᑫ ᐅᑎᒉᒥ"ᐊᒪᑯ

For words ending in ᑯ be careful to write **ᐱ, ᑎ, ᔤ, ᓂ** and not **ᐳ, ᑐ, ᓴ, ᓄ** before final ᑯ.

Write…	**Not…**
ᒥᔅᑎᑯ	ᒥᔅᑐᑯ
ᐊᒉ·ᐱᑯ	ᐊᒉ·ᐳᑯ
ᐸ·ᔤᑯ	ᐸ·ᓴᑯ
ᐅᔅᐸ·ᔤᑯ	ᐅᔅᐸ·ᓴᑯ
ᐄᔾᔿ"ᑎᑯ	ᐄᔾᔿ"ᑐᑯ
ᒥᓂᔅᑎᑯ	ᒥᓂᔅᑐᑯ
ᔑᐊᔿ"ᑎᑯ	ᔑᐊᔿ"ᑐᑯ
ᔑᐊᔅᑎᑯ	ᔑᐊᔅᑐᑯ
·ᐄᔨᒥᐱᑯ"	·ᐄᔨᒥᐳᑯ"

3.4   How the syllabic finals change when an ending is added

3.4.1 Words ending with ᐳ, ᒉ, ᑫ, ᔤ, ᒪ, ᓇ, ᒃ, ᕾ

Animate plural suffix ᔤ

When you add this **ending** change to **ᐱ, ᑎ, ᑭ, ᒥ, ᓂ, ᔨ, ᔤ** then add ᔤ.

	Singular	**Plural**
p	ᔑᔑᐳ	ᔑᔑᐱᔤ
t	ᐄᔅᔿᔤ"ᒉ	ᐄᔅᔿᔤ"ᑎᔤ
k	ᐅᒉᑫ	ᐅᒉᑭᔤ
m	ᐊᒃᒪ	ᐊᒃᒥᔤ
n	ᐊᒥ"ᒉᓇ	ᐊᒥ"ᒉᓂᔤ
s	ᓂᒪᕾ	ᓂᒪᔨᔤ
sh	ᐊ·ᐊᔤᕾ	ᐊ·ᐊᔤᔤ

Locative suffix

When you add the locative ending, used for the English prepositions "in, at, to, on, etc."
change the small ⟨, ⟨, ᖅ, ᑦ, ᒧ, ᒪ, ᐊ, ᕝ, ᓐ to big ᐱ, ᑎ, ᕿ, ᑐ, ᒥ, ᒦ, ᓂ, ᕆ, ᓯ.

	Locative
·ᐸᖅ	·ᐸᑎᒻᒃ
⊲ᕝᒪ	⊲ᕝᕆᒻᒃ
⊲ᕆᐦᖱᐊ	⊲ᕆᐦᖱᓂᒻᒃ
ᓂ·ᐱᓐ	ᓂ·ᐱᓯᒻᒃ
�́ᕆᔾᓇᐦᑎᖱ	ᕆᕆᔾᓇᐦᑎᑐᒻᒃ
ᑕᐦᑎᐱ·ᐃᐊ	ᑕᐦᑎᐱ·ᐃᓂᒻᒃ

Note that another ending which sounds exactly like the locative can be added to nouns.
This is the **simulative** suffix and is translated as "like a" as in this sentence: ·ᒪᒻᒃ ᓇ·ᐸᒻᒃ
ᐃᑕᕐᐦᑕᕐᐸᕐ°ᒻ ᐅᖱ·ᐃᐦ.

	Simulative
ᓇ·ᐸ°	ᓇ·ᐸᒻᒃ
⊲ᑎᒪ	⊲ᑎᒍᒻᒃ
ᔾᔾᐸ	ᔾᔾᐱᒻᒃ
ᓂᕝᖅ	ᓂᕝᕿᒻᒃ
⊲ᑎᐦᑐ	⊲ᑎᐦᑐᒻᒃ
ᓂᒪᕝ	ᓂᒪᕆᒻᒃ

Diminutive suffix

When you add the diminutive ending, meaning "small or young", you usually change the
small syllabic ⟨, ⟨, ᖅ, ᑐ, ᒧ, ᐊ to big ᐱ, ᑎ, ᕿ, ᑐ, ᕆ, ᓂ.

	Diminutive
⊲ᑐᐦ⟨	⊲ᑐᐦᐱᓐ
ᕆ·⊲ᓐᖅ	ᕆ·⊲ᓐᕿᓯᓐ
⊲ᑎᐦᑐ	⊲ᕆᐦᑐᓯᓐ
⊲ᕆᐦᖱᐊ	⊲ᕆᐦᖱᓂᓐ

In many words there is often an additional change so that ᕢ becomes ᒥ, ᑎ and ⟨
become ᕆ, ᐲ becomes ᐲ, ᕝ becomes ᓇᓐ, and ᕝ becomes ᓐ. In these cases there
may be two pronunciations of the diminutive word, as seen in the examples below.

ᒥᖃ	ᒥᕆᔭ	
ᒥᒉᕐ	ᒥᒉᓱᖅ	ᒥᖢᓱᖅ
ᔪᐅᓇᕐ	ᔪᐅᓇᓱᖅ	ᔮᐅᓈᓱᖅ ᔮᐅᕆᓱᖅ
ᐊᓂᒪ	ᐊᕆᒧᓱᖅ	
ᐊᐃᔾᒪ	ᐊᖢᒥᖅ	
ᐄᔾᕐ	ᐄᔾᓱᖅ	
ᐱᔅᐃᕐ	ᐱᔅᐃᓱᖅ	
ᒥᖤᑎᖅ	ᒥᖤᕆᖅᓱᖅ	

An exception is the change of final **ᖃ** to **ᕆ** in this word:

ᓂᕐᖃ	ᓂᖅᕆᓱᖅ
	ᓂᖅᕆᖃᓂᓱᖅ

Possessive suffix

When the possessive endings are added, little **ᐸ, ᐳ, ᖃ, ᖅ, ᖢ, ᒪ, ᖄ, ᕐ, ᖤ** become big **ᐱ, ᓂ, ᑭ, ᖅ, ᕆ, ᒥ, ᓂ, ᕆ, ᓱ**.

ᔪᔪᐸ	ᓂᔪᔪᐱᒪ
ᒥᖃ	ᓂᒥᖅᓂᒪ
ᒍᖃ	ᓂᒍᑭᒪ
ᐊᓂᖅᖅ	ᓂᓇᓂᖅᖅᒪ
ᐊᐃᔾᒪ	ᓂᓇᐃᕆᖄᓂᖢ
ᐊᒥᖅᖄᖃ	ᓂᒉᒥᖅᖄᓱᖄᓂᖢ
ᓂᒪᕐ	ᓂᓂᒪᕆᒪ
ᐊᕆᖃᓱ	ᓂᓇᕆᖃᓱᒪ

Here is a summary of how the finals change:

	Animate Plural	**Diminutive**	**Locative**	**Possessive**
ᔪᔪᐸ	ᔪᔪᐱᖢ	ᔪᔪᐱᓱᖅ	ᔪᔪᐱᖅᖢ	ᓂᔪᔪᐱᒪ
ᐅᒪᑕ	ᐅᒪᓂᖢ	ᐅᒪᓂᖅ	ᐅᒪᓂᖅᖢ	ᖄᒪᓂᒪ
ᐸᓂᖃᖃ	ᐸᓂᖃᑭᖢ	ᐸᓂᖃᑭᖅ	ᐸᓂᖃᑭᖅᖢ	ᓂᐸᓂᖃᑭᒪ
ᐊᐃᔾᒪ	ᐊᐃᕆᖢ	ᐊᖢᕆᖅ	ᐊᐃᕆᖅᖢ	ᓂᓇᐃᕆᖄᓂᖢ
ᔭᓂᖅ	ᔭᓂᓂᖢ	ᔭᓂᓂᖅ, ᔭᕆᓂᖅ	ᔭᓂᓂᖅᖢ	ᓂᔭᓂᓂᒪ

σ L �顧   σ L ᒃ ᑯ   σ L ᔅ ᓀ   σ L ᒃ ᔅ ᒻ ᒪ   σ σ L ᒃ ᒪ
ᐊ ᕑ ᖅ ᓭ   ᐊ ᕑ ᖅ ᔅ ᑯ   ᐊ ᕑ ᖅ ᔅ ᓀ   ᐊ ᕑ ᖅ ᔅ ᒻ ᒪ   σ ∩ ᕑ ᖅ ᔅ ᒪ

3.4.2 Words ending with ᗡ

The little ᗡ changes to big ᗡ when an ending is added.

	Animate Plural	Diminutive	Locative	Possessive
ᐊ∩"ᗡ	ᐊ∩"ᗡᑯ	ᐊᕑ"ᗡᔅᓀ	ᐊ∩"ᗡᒻᒪ	σ∩∩"ᗡᒪ
ᐊᒉᐢᗡ	ᐊᒉᐢᗡᑯ	ᐊᒉᔅᗡᔅᓀ	ᐊᒉᐢᗡᒻᒪ	σ∩ᒉᐢᗡᒪ
·ᐊᐱᐢᗡ	·ᐊᐱᐢᗡᑯ	·ᐊᐱᔅᗡᔅᓀ	·ᐊᐱᐢᗡᒻᒪ	σ·ᐊᐱᐢᗡᒪ
·Lᗡ	·Lᗡᑯ	·Lᗡᔅᓀ	·Lᗡᒻᒪ	σ·Lᗡᒪ

3.4.3 Words ending with °

If the word ends in °, and an ending is added, the ° is kept only if the suffix is ".

ᔅᗡĊ°	ᔅᗡĊ°"
·ᐊ°	·ᐊ°"

When the animate plural ending is added to a noun, the ° becomes ᐅ.

Singular	Plural
ȧᐸ°	ȧᐸᐅᑯ
ĹσĊ°	ĹσĊᐅᑯ
ᐅᕑĹ°	ᐅᕑĹᐅᑯ
ᐃᐢ·ᖅ°	ᐃᐢ·ᖅᐅᑯ

When the animate plural ending is added to a verb, the ° becomes ·ᐃ.

Singular	Plural
σᐸ°	σᐸ·ᐃᑯ
Ĺ∩·ᐊ°	Ĺ∩·ᐊ·ᐃᑯ
·ᐊᐱĹ°	·ᐊᐱĹ·ᐃᑯ
·ᐃᐳ·ᐃ°	·ᐃᐳ·ᐃ·ᐃᑯ
ᗡ∩ᐱ°	ᗡ∩ᐱ·ᐃᑯ

When the diminutive, locative or possessive ending is added to a noun, the ° is dropped.

Singular	Diminutive	Locative/ Simulative	Possessive
ȧ<°	ȧ<ᓕᣜ	ȧ<ᵐᒧ	ᑕ̇ȧ<ᒫ
ᒪ̇ᑕᐸ°	ᒪ̇ᑕᐃᓕᣜ	ᒪ̇ᑕᐸᵐᒧ	ᑕᒪ̇ᑕᐸᒫ
ᐅᖑᒪ̇°	ᐅᖑᒪ̇ᓕᣜ	ᐅᖑᒪ̇ᵐᒧ	ȯᖑᒪ̇ᒫ

3.4.4 Some exceptions

Be careful of the following words where ᒪ becomes ᒧ, ᐸ becomes ᐹ, and ᣜ becomes ᑎ when an ending is added.

Singular	Plural	Locative	Diminutive
⊲ᑎᒪ	⊲ᑎᒧᐤ	⊲ᑎᒧᵐᒧ	⊲ᖑᒧᓕᣜ
ᐱᐸᒪ	ᐱᐹᒧᐤ	ᐱᐹᒧᵐᒧ	ᐱᐃᒧᣜ
ᒧᐣ	ᒧᐹᐤ	ᒧᐹᵐᒧ	ᒧᑎᓕᣜ
·⊲>ᣜ	·⊲>ᑎᐤ	·⊲>ᑎᵐᒧ	·⊲>ᑎᓕᣜ

More examples of words with these endings:

⊲ᑎᒪ	ᐱᐸᒪ	ᒧᐣ	·⊲>ᣜ
⊲ᑎᒧᵐᖳᵃ	ᐱᐸᒧᵐᖳᵃ	ᒧᐹᖭᵃ	·⊲>ᑎᖭᵃ
⊲ᑎᒧᑕ⊲ȧᖤᐱ	ᐱᐸᒧᐹᑕᵐᐃᖲᵃ	ᒧᐹᖑᵃ	·⊲>ᑎᵐᖳᵃ
⊲ᑎᒧᐱᐃᣜ	ᐱᐹ·ᒪ̇ᖤᐱ	ᒧᐹᖤᐣ	·⊲>ᑎᖲᖑᒪ
⊲ᑎᒧᵐᖳᑊ	ᐱᐹ·ᒪ̇ᵐᒼᵐᒧ	ᒧᐹᐤ	·⊲>ᑎᒪ̇°
⊲ᑎᒧᣜᑎ·ᖳᵃ	ᑎᐱᵐᐊᐱᐹ·ᒪ̇ᵃ	ᒧᑎᓕᣜ	·⊲>ᑎᣜᑎ·ᖳᵃ
⊲ᑎᒧᖤᵃ	ᐱᐸᒧᐤ	ᑕᒧᐹᒪ	·⊲>ᑎᖲᖑᵐᑯ
⊲ᑎᒧᑕ⊲ȧᖤᑯ	ᐱᐃᒧᣜ	ᒧᐹᵐᒧ	·⊲>ᑎ>ᖑᑕᓕᐤ

3.5 ᕽ and ᣖ

Here are some words with ᕽ and ᣖ before a consonant. These sounds may be difficult to hear for some speakers, so check with the dictionary.

sk	shk	st	sht
ᒥᕽᐱ·ᐊᣖᵒ	ᒣᣖᐱ·ᐊᣖᵒ	·ᐊᕽᑐᐧᐃᕽᑫᵃ	·ᐊᣖᕿᓂᒫ
ᐊᕽᐸᵒ(")	ᒍᣖᐱᑊ	ᐊᕽᑎᕽ	·ᐊᣖᕕ"ᐧᐃᒋᵒ
ᒥᕽᐱᒫ	ᒣᣖᐱ·ᐃᵒ	ᓂᕽᑐᕆᵒ	ᐧᐊᣖᒋ·ᐸ"
ᐅᕽᐸᵃ	ᐸᣖᐱ"ᐊᒫ	ᓂᕽᒋᕽ	ᐊᣖᕕᓂᒫ

sch	shch	sp	shp
ᐧᐊᕽᕝᒉᵃ	ᓂᣖᕑᒋᣖ	ᓂᕽᐱᕕ·ᐊᣖᵒ	ᕓᣖᕒ
ᐊᕽᕒᐱᕽᑯᐧᐊᵒ	ᐱᣖᑲ	ᐸᕽᐱᒉᵃ	ᐧᐃᣖᐱᕆᵒ
ᐊᕽᕑ	ᐅᣖᕒ·ᐸᓂᣖ	ᒥᕽᕚᵃ	ᐸᣖᐸᣖᒋᵒ
ᐊᔭᓂᕽᐱ	ᐅᣖᑲ	ᑯᕽᐱᵒ	ᐊᣖᐱᕒᒍ
ᐸᕽᕒ·ᕝ	ᑯ·ᒉᣖᑲ	ᒥᕽᐱᑭᓇᵃ	ᐱᣖᐱᓂᕕᒫ
ᐊᐸᒥᕽᕕ"	ᐧᐃᣖᑲ	·ᐊᕽᐱᑯᐧᐃᔭᵃ	ᐊᣖᐱᕒᵃ
ᐸᕽᕑ·ᐸᒍ	ᐧᐃ·ᑖᣖᑲ	ᕒᕽᐧᕝᵒ	ᐊᣖᐱᣖᕕᒉᵒ
ᐊᐧ·ᐊᕽᐱᕽ	ᐧᑲ	ᕒᕽᐱᐸᵒ	ᐃᣖᐱᒣ"
ᐸᕽᕑᐧᐸᵒ	ᐧᐊᐱᕑᒥᕽᐊᵒ	ᕒᕽᐱᕆᔭᵒ	ᐸᣖᐧᕝᵒ
ᒥᕽᕒᔭᐧᕝᐱ	ᐅᣖᕒᕕ"ᑯᣖ	ᕒᕽᐱᓂᕕᒍ·ᐊᵒ	ᐸᣖᐱᕕᐧᕝᵒ

3.6 The use of the " (h)   ᔭ"ᔭ·ᐊᕿᵃ

The " (h) symbol is a difficult one to use correctly. There are a few places where it is used predictably, mostly in grammatical endings, but otherwise, you have to train yourself to hear it when someone says a word.

The " (h) symbol does not occur at the beginning of a word, except in names.

"ᐁᓂᕒ
"ᐁᒐᵃ
"ᐊᕒ

3.6.1 " in the middle of a word

The " is used in the middle of a word between two vowel sounds or before a consonant. Here are some examples:

Before ∆, ∆̇, ▷, ▷̇, ◁, ◁̇, ·◁

    λ̇"∆ᒪ
    ▷∩"◁ᒪ
    ▷∩"·◁°
    ▷Γσ"▷·∆ᵃ
    ▷"▷̇Γ𐐒°
    ▷"∆̇
    ▷∩"∆̇ᒡ°
    ◁̇"◁̇·◁ᒣᑐ
    σ<̇"◁̇°
    L̇∩"∆̇Pᵃ
    L̇"∆̇Λᔆ°
    Γ𐐒σ"∆̇Pᵃ

Before ∧, ∧̇, >, >̇, <̇, ·<̇, <

    ▷"λ̇°
    ∧">·∆∧ᔆ"Ċ°
    λ̇"λ̇"ᒡ°
    <̇"∧°
    Ċ́·◁̇"<
    ▷"∧"▷̇
    ▷∩"<
    ▷"∧σPᵃ
    ΓᑐP"<
    ▷"<𐐒°
    ▷"·<̇∧ᔆ°
    <̇"∧°

Before ∩, ∩̇, ᑐ, ᑐ̇, Ċ, ·Ċ, �

    Γ"ᑕ
    <̇"∩ᒪ
    ▷"∩ᵃ
    ▷"Ċ°
    ∆ᔆ"∩·∆ᵃ
    ∆̇ᑐ"Ċ°
    Ꝑ"ᑕ
    Ꝑ"Ċᔆ°
    ▷"Ċ·∆̇"
    Ċ"∩∧·∆ᵃ

Before Γ, Γ̇, ᒍ, ᒍ̇, ᒡ, ·ᒡ, ᒐ

    λ̇"Γᒡ°
    ▷Ċ"ᒐ
    >"Γ·∆Ċ°
    ∆ᔆ"ᒐ
    ᒡᒡ"Γ̇°
    ᒐ"ᒡᔆᒍ
    Ꝑ"ΓΓ̇"ᒐ
    ◁̇"Γᑯ
    Γ"ᒡᑐ
    >"ᒡ∧ᵃ̇°

Before P, Ṗ, ᑫ, ᑫ̇, ᑲ, ·ᑲ, ᑲ, ᑯ

    ◁̇"ᑯ𐐒°
    ◁∩"ᑯ
    ∆̇ᔆ"ᑯ
    L̇"Ꝑ̇

Before ᔆ, ᔆ̇, ᐸ, ᐸ̇, 𐐒, ·𐐒

    ·◁̇"ᔆ°
    ·◁̇∧"𐐒°
    Γᒧ∩ᑯ"𐐒°
    𐐒"𐐒°

ᒥ"ᑯ   ᑭ"ᖨᕐ°

ᐅ"ᑯᕋ   ᐱᒥ"ᖨᕐ°

ᐅ"ᑯᒪ"   ᐱ"ᖨᑯᕆ°

ᐅ"ᖃᒪ°   ᖅᕚ"ᖨᕐ°

ᐊ"ᑯᕋ   ᖨᐊ"ᖨᓯᑭᒪ

ᖨ"ᑭᕋ   ᒍ"ᖨ·ᐊᕐ°

It is sometimes difficult to hear the " sound but it becomes easier to hear when you say these pairs of words:

With " (h)	Without " (h)
ᒥ"ᑯ	ᒥᑯ
ᖨ"ᖅᕐ°	ᖨᖅᕐ°
·ᐄ"ᐸᕐ°	·ᐃᐳᐸᕐ°
ᒥᓂ"·ᖃᕐ°	ᒥᓂ·ᖃᕐ°
ᖨ"ᖨᕐ°	ᖨᖨᕐ°
ᒥ"ᑯᐁᕐ°	ᒥᑯᐁᕐ°
ᒪ"ᖀ	ᒪᖀ
·ᐄᐳ"ᑯ	ᖁᑯ
ᒥ"ᑕ	ᒥᒑᕁ
ᐱ"ᒑ°	ᐸᒑ°
ᐅ"ᒥᐱᖅᒪ	ᐅᒥᐱᖅᒪ
ᖁ"ᒑᕐ°	ᖁᒑᐱᒑᕐ°
ᐸ"ᐱᒑ°	ᐸᐱᒑ°

3.6.2 " at the end of a word

At the end of a word **"** (h) is used to mark grammatical categories such as the inanimate plural of nouns, obviative of animate nouns, locative of nouns, imperative marker of verbs, etc.

Inanimate plural marker

Nouns:

Singular	Plural
ᐅᒉᐸᓇ	ᐅᒉᐸᓇ"
ᒥ�seᓂ"ᐁᕆᓇ	ᒥseᓂ"ᐁᕆᓇ"
ᒥ"ᑕ	ᒥ"ᑕ"
ᐁᑕ	ᐁᑕ"
ᓐᐸᕆᒍᐃᓇ	ᓐᐸᕆᒍᐃᓇ"
·ᐃᕊᕆᓇ	·ᐃᕊᕆᓇ"
ᐅseᑕ	ᐅseᑕ"

Verbs:

Singular	Plural
ᒥᕂᕊᵒ	ᒥᕂᕊᵒ"
ᐸᐱᕑᵒ	ᐸᐱᕑᵒ"
ᒥ"ᑲᵒ	ᒥ"ᑲᵒ"
ᐸ"ᒉᒍᓇ	ᐸ"ᒉᒍᓇ"
ᐅᒍᓇ	ᐅᒍᓇ"
ᕆᐅᕊᒍᓇ	ᕆᐅᕊᒍᓇ"
ᒥᕆᓇ	ᒥᕆᓇ"
·ᐊᕑᒉᵒ	·ᐊᕑᒉᵒ"
·ᐊᐸᵒ	·ᐊᐸᵒ"

Animate obviative marker

Possessed animate nouns

" (h) is used for when the possessor is
third person (he, she, they)

" (h) is not used when the possessor is
first or second person (I, you, we)

ᐅᐦᑖᐧᐃᐦ   ᐅᐦᑖᐧᐃᔆᵒ��   ᐅᐦᐨᐅᐧᐊᵒ��   ᓂᐦᑖᐧᐃ   ᓂᐦᑖᐧᐃᓇᵉ
ᐅᑲᐧᐃᐦ   ᐅᑲᐧᐃᔆᵒ511   ᐅᑲᐅᐧᐊᵒ511   ᓂᑲᐧᐃ   ᓂᑲᐧᐃᓇᵉ
ᐅᑰᕁᐦ   ᐅᑰᕐᕈᔆᵒ511   ᐅᑰᕐᕈᐧᐊᵒ511   ᓂᑰᕁ   ᓂᑰᕐᕈᓇᵉ
ᐅᑖᒼ11   ᐅᑖᒥᔆᵒ11   ᐅᑖᒥᐧᐊᵒ11   ᓂᑖᒼ   ᓂᑖᒥᓇᵉ

Obviative Nouns with Transitive Animate Verbs

When a Transitive Animate Verb has two third persons, one of them (is obviative) and
adds an **"** (h) at the end.

ᐊᔆᒫᵒ ᓂᑖᒼ11 ᐊᓃᕁ
ashimâu nitâm**h** ânî.

ᓂᑖᒼ ᐊᔆᒫᐃᑰ ᐊᓃᐦ
nitâm ashimiku ânî-**h**.

ᐊᓃ ᐧᐊᐸᒥᑰ ᓂᔆᑖᔆ11
ânî wâpamikû nistâs-**h**.

ᐊᓃ ᐧᐊᐱᒫᵒ ᓂᔆᑖᔆ11
ânî wâpimâu nistâs-**h**.

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" (h) on expressions of time

" (h) can be added to an expression of time, when something happens more than once.

ᓈᒃ ᐸᣔᑯᐱᔆᒫ" ᐃᑎᓂᔆᕼᐅ×

ᐸᣔᑯᐱᔆᒫ" ᐃᑎᓂᔆᕼᐅ ᒫᑊ×

ᓀᓲᑎᐱᣔᑿᓲᔆ" ᓂᒥ ᓯᔆᑎ ᒥᔆᣔᔆᑿᒐᒧᑊ×

" (h) on habitual verbs

" (h) is found on conjugation #12b to indicate a habitual or repetitive event: 'whenever...'

Conjunct Indicative Neutral (CIN) (#11)	**CIN Habitual-Iterative (#12b)**
ᐸ" ᒫᖀᣔᔆᑊ	ᒫᖀᣔᔆᑊᓲ"
ᑿ ᒫᖀᣔᔆᑊ	ᑿ ᒫᖀᣔᔆᑊᓲ"
ᒪ ᒫᖀᣔᔆᑊ	ᒪ ᒫᖀᣔᔆᑊᓲ"
ᖀᔆᖀᓈᣔᐸᔆᒪ	ᖀᔆᖀᓈᣔᐸᔆᒪᓲ"

" (h) as a marker of Imperative verbs for second person singular forms

3rd person 's/he...'	**2nd person singular '(you)...'**
ᓂᐸᣔᓲ	ᓂᐸᣔ"
ᐸᣔᒥᓲᒋᓲ	ᐸᣔᒥᓲᒋ"
ᒥᓂᓲᣔᑿᓲ	ᒥᓂᓲᣔᑿ"
ᐱᣔᣔᑿᐱᓲ	ᐱᣔᣔᑿᐸ"
ᓂᖀᒧ	ᓂᖀᒫ"
ᓀᒥᓲ	ᓀᒪ"
ᐧᐸᐱᓲᑎᒪ	ᐧᐸᐱᓲᒋ"
ᑎᓲᖀᣔᖀᒪ	ᑎᓲᖀᣔᑿ"

Note that **" (h)** is used for the command forms 'do it to it' and 'do it to me' but not for 'do it to him'.

	(do it to) **it**	(do it to) **me**	(do it to) **him**
ᓈᒋᓲ	ᓈ ᒋ"	ᓈᣔ"	ᓈᣔ
ᐅᖀᐱᒋᓲ	ᐅᖀᐱᒋ"	ᐅᖀᐱᣔ"	ᐅᖀᐱᣔ
ᐧᐸᐱᒪᓲ	ᐧᐸᐱᓲᒋ"	ᐧᐸᐱᒪ"	ᐧᐸᐱᒪ
ᒫᔆᖀᐧᐸᓲ	ᒫᔆᑿᓲ"	ᒫᔆᖀᓲ"	ᒫᔆᖀᓲ
ᒫᓂᐧᓈᓲ	ᒫᓂᣔ"	ᒫᓂᓲ"	ᒫᓂᓲ

3.6.3 Locative suffix

In the locative marker for nouns and particles **"** (h) is used before **ᑊ**. Note that not all particles use **"ᑊ**.

Locative suffix on particles

" (h) is used	**" (h) is not used**
ᐅ�clᵒᵖᑊ	ċᐅᑊ
ᐱ"ᑎᑭᒥᵒᵖᑊ	ċċᐅᑊ
ᐊ́ċᒥᵒᵖᑊ / ᓂ́ċᒥᵒᵖᑊ	ᑎᐱᓕᑯᑊ
◁ḃᒥᵒᵖᑊ	ᒥᓕᑎᐊᑊ
ᒷᒥᵒᵖᑊ	ᐅᓕᑊ
ȯḃᓂᵒᵖᑊ	ᒧᓕᑎ"ᑎᑊ
ᐃᓕᐱᒥᵒᵖᑊ	
ᓂ"ᐃ̇·ᐃᓂᵒᵖᑊ	
ᓂᒥ"ᑉ̇·ᐃᓂᵒᵖᑊ	
ᐊ̇ᔪ◁ᑎᒥᵒᵖᑊ	
ȯᓂ"ḃᵒᵖᑊ	

Locative suffix on nouns

Locative	**Non-locative**
ᔪᐱᵒᵖᑊ	ᔪᐱ
ᒄᑭ"ᐃ́ᑭᓂᵒᵖᑊ	ᒄᑭ"ᐃ́ᑭᵃ
ᐱᔪᒐᵒᵖᑊ	ᐱᔪᴸ
ᑉᒥ·◁"ᐱᵒᵖᑊ	ᑉᒥ·◁"<
ᒷᒄᑭȧᵒᵖᑊ	ᒷᒄᑭᓂᵒ
ċ"ᑎᐱ·ᐃᓂᵒᵖᑊ	ċ"ᑎᐱ·ᐃᵃ
·ᐃᑉ̇ᵒᵖᑊ	·ᐃᑉ̇
ᑉᒥᔪȧ"ᑎᑯᵒᵖᑊ	ᑉᒥᔪȧ"ᑎᵈ
ᒥᔪᓂ"ᐃ́ᑭᓂᵒᵖᑊ	ᒥᔪᓂ"ᐃ́ᑭᵃ

Note that another ending, which sounds exactly like the locative, can be added to nouns. This is the **simulative** suffix and is translated as "like a".

	Simulative
ȧ◁́ᵒ	ȧ◁́ᵒᵖᑊ
◁ᑎᴸ	◁ᑎᒐᵒᵖᑊ

3.6.4 " (h) in Verb Suffixes

If a verb ends in �L or ᓇ, these finals will change to " when ᑕ or ᖅ is added as a conjunct verb ending.

Independent Order	Conjunct Order
∧ᒋᔅᓇ	◁ᐃ" ∧ᒋᔅᐦᑭ
∩ᒍᔅᓇ	◁ᐃ" ∩ᒍᔅᐦᑭ
·◁∧"∩L	ᖃ ᑭ ·◁∧"∩ᐦᑭ
ᒋᖕᑭL	◁ᐃ" ᒋᖕᑭᐦᑭ
ᓂ∧ᓇ	◁ᐃ" ᓂ∧"ᑕ
ᒋ⅃·∆ᓇ	◁ᐃ" ᒋ⅃·∆"ᑕ
ᓅᒍᓇ	◁ᐃ" ᓅᒍ"ᑕ
ᒋ·ᓈᖕᒍᓇ	ᖃ ᒋ·ᓈᖕᒍ"ᑕ
▷ᒋ∧∩L	ᒍ ▷ᒋ∧∩ᐦᑭ

The endings of some verbs change the final ᓇ to " before ᑕ in the plural form:

ᓂᖕᐳ (singular)	ᓂᖕᔦᓇ (plural)
ᖃ ᓂᐸᔦᓇ	ᖃ ᓂᐸᔦ"ᑕ
ᖃ ◁∧∩ᕈᔦᓇ	ᖃ ◁∧∩ᕈᔦ"ᑕ
ᖃ ∆"ᑐ∩ᒪᓇ	ᖃ ∆"ᑐ∩ᒪ"ᑕ

Other verbs endings change the final ᓇ to " before ᒍ in the plural form:

ᓂᖕᐳ (singular)	ᓂᖕᔦᓇ (plural)
ᒍ ᓂᐸᐳᓇ	ᒍ ᓂᐸᐳ"ᒍ
ᖃ ◁∧∩ᕈᐳᓇ	ᖃ ◁∧∩ᕈᐳ"ᒍ

Part Four: ∆, ∆̇ and ᕈ

4.1 ∆ at the end of words

⊲>∆

ᑐᑐᑏ�dᑲ>∆ / ᒍᒍᑏᑲ>∆

ᓂᒧ∆

∆̇"d∆

∆̇ᑐ∆

ᐳᑊ∆

ᐳᑎ"d∆

4.2 ∆̇ and ∆ in the middle of a word

After (h) " the long **∆̇** is used:

ᒥᑏᓂ"**∆̇**ᒫᐤ	ᒥᑏᓂ"**∆̇**ᒪᐊ
ᐳᒡᒥ"**∆̇**ᒫᐤ	ᐳᒡᒥ"**∆̇**ᒪᐊ
ᒥᓇᑐ∆"**∆̇**ᒫᐤ	ᒥᓇᑐ∆"**∆̇**ᒪᐊ
ᑲᓇᕈ"**∆̇**ᒫᐤ	ᑲᓇᕈ"**∆̇**ᒪᐊ
ᑏᓇ"**∆̇**ᒫᐤ	ᑏᓇ"**∆̇**ᒪᐊ
⊲ᓇ"**∆̇**ᒫᐤ	⊲ᓇ"**∆̇**ᒪᐊ

A few words with **∆** in the middle are given here, but there are more in the dictionary.

⊲ᒡ**∆**ᐧ⊲ᓇ

⊲ᒡ**∆**ᐧ⊲ᒻᐨ

⊲**∆**"dᑲᒫᐤ

4.3 Using ᕈ

ᕈ is used in verb endings:

	sleep	**sit**
(ᑲᕈ)	ᑲ ᓂᑲᒫᐊ	ᑲ ⊲ᐱᒫᐊ
(ᑭᕈ)	ᑲ ᓂᑲᕈᐊ	ᑲ ⊲ᐱᕈᐊ
(∆̇ᕈ)	ᑲ ᓂᑲᐨ	ᑲ ⊲ᐱᐨ
	ᑲ ᓂᑲᕈᒫᐧ	ᑲ ⊲ᐱᕈᒫᐧ
(ᑲᒫᐊ)	ᑲ ᓂᑲᒫᒻᐨ	ᑲ ⊲ᐱᒫᒻᐨ
(ᑭᒫᓂᐤ)	ᑲ ᓂᑲᕈᒫd	ᑲ ⊲ᐱᕈᒫd

| (ṙᖭ·ᐊᵒ) | ᒃ ᓂ ᐸᒥᔾ ᑦ | ᒃ ᐊᐱ ᔾ ᑦ |
| (ᐃᖭ·ᐊᵒ) | ᒃ ᓂᐸᒥᒫᐤ | ᒃ ᐊᐱᒫᐤ |

	white	**visible**
	ᒃ ·ᐊᐸ ᒫᐤ	ᒃ ᓲᑯᒭᒫᐤ
	ᒃ ·ᐊᐸᒫᐤ᙮	ᒃ ᓲᑯᒭᒫᐤ᙮
	ᒃ ·ᐊᐸᔾᒫᐤ	ᒃ ᓲᑯᓂᔾᒫᐤ
	ᒃ ·ᐊᐸᔾᒫᐤ᙮	ᒃ ᓲᑯᓂᔾᒫᐤ᙮

Keep the ᔾ in words which end in ᐱᔾᵒ when they add a suffix:

ᐱᒥᑭᐱᔾᵒ	ᐱᒥᑭᐱᔾᒫ᙮ᐊᵒ	ᐱᒥᑭᐱᔾᒫ᙮ᒋᵒ
ᐱᒥᐱᔾᵒ	ᐱᒥᐱᔾᒫ᙮ᐊᵒ	ᐱᒥᐱᔾᒫ᙮ᒋᵒ
ᐅ·ᒥᐱᔾᵒ	ᐅ·ᒥᐱᔾᒫ᙮ᐊᵒ	ᐅ·ᒥᐱᔾᒫ᙮ᒋᵒ
ᒥ᙮ᑭᐱᔾᵒ	ᒥ᙮ᑭᐱᔾᒫ᙮ᐊᵒ	ᒥ᙮ᑭᐱᔾᒫ᙮ᒋᵒ
ᔭᐱᔾᵒ	ᔭᐱᔾᒫ᙮ᐊᵒ	ᔭᐱᔾᒫ᙮ᒋᵒ

Be careful of these words, which sound similar but are written differently.

| ᒥᔾ | cod | ·ᐃᔫ | it (anim) howls |
| ᒥᔾ | pus | ᐅᔾᵒ | her/his body |

4.4   New spelling for ᒋᵒ and ᑎᑯᐊ, ᗒᑎᒷ and ᗒᑎ·ᐊᵒ

Note that the words ᐃ᙮ᒋᵒ and ᐃ᙮ᑎᑯᐊ, ᐃ᙮ᗒᑎᒷ and ᐃ᙮ᗒᑎ·ᐊᵒ, begin with ᐃ᙮... which is often not pronounced. Nevertheless it is written. It can be heard clearly when a prefix is added to the word or the first vowel is changed. For example: ᐃ᙮ᒋᵒ, ᒥᑎ᙮ᒋᐊ, ᐊ᙮ᒋᐃᑦ.

Write…		**Not…**
ᐃ᙮ᒋᵒ		ᒋᵒ
ᐃ᙮ᑎᑯᐊ		ᑎᑯᐊ
ᐃ᙮ᗒᑎᒷ		ᗒᑎᒷ
ᐃ᙮ᗒᑎ·ᐊᵒ		ᗒᑎ·ᐊᵒ

Part Five: Syllabic Symbols not to forget to write

5.1   Short Δ or ◁ at the beginning

In many words the short Δ or ◁ at the beginning is not pronounced in ordinary fast speech. However, you can hear it clearly when a prefix is added to the beginning of a word. Make sure to write the Δ or ◁, even when it is not audible or pronounced.

Δ	◁
Δᵒ·ḃ"Ċᴸ	◁ᵎᴸ
Δᵔᑭᓂ∧>ᵃ"	◁ᵒᑐᑎᵃ
ΔᵒᑰĊᵒ	◁∧ᒍᵒ
Δᵒ∧ᒥ"ᑊ	◁·ḃĊᶜ
Δᵎ·ḃᵒ	◁ᵔᑎᒉᑊ
Δᵒ·ḃᒉᵒ	◁ᒥᵔᑯ
Δᵒ∧ᒉᒍᵃ	◁ᑭᒍᒉᵒ
Δ"ᑐᑎᴸ	◁·ḃ∧"Ċᓂᴸ
Δᵎ·ḃᒉᴸ	◁ᑭḃᵒ

5.2.   ·Δ and ▷

It is often difficult to hear the difference between ·Δ and ▷. In order to decide which one to write, it is best to check with the dictionary.

·Δ	▷
·Δᑭᵒᑯ	▷ᵒᑎ·ḃᵃ
·Δᑭᵒᑐᵃ	▷ᵎᑯᶜ
·Δᑭ̇	▷ᑐᵃ
·Δȧᑭ"◁ᵒ	▷ᒥᓂᑯ

5.3   ·ᐃ, ·ᐃ̇ and ▷

Words beginning with ·ᐃ, ·ᐃ̇ and ▷ can sound alike before ᐱ̇, ᐧ and ᐧ̇.

·ᐃ		·ᐃ̇		▷	
·ᐃᐧᐱᑲ	plate	·ᐃ̇ᐱ·ᐊ°	them	▷ᐱ°	her/his body
·ᐃᐧ̇	it howls	·ᐃ̇°ᐦ	his wife		
		·ᐃ̇·ᐃᖯ	his bag, load		
		·ᐃ̇ᐱ̇	his bladder		
		·ᐃ̇ᐱ	she, he		

Note the irregular possessed forms:

·ᐃᐧᐦ	▷·ᐃᐧᑉᒄ
	ᓂ̇ᐧᑉᒄ (ᓂ+ᐃ=ᓂ̇)
	ᑎ̇ᐧᑉᒄ (ᑎ+ᐃ=ᑎ̇)

·ᐃᐧᐱᑲ	▷·ᐃᐧᐱᑲ
	ᓂ̇ᐧᐱᑲ (ᓂ+ᐃ=ᓂ̇)
	ᑎ̇ᐧᐱᑲ (ᑎ+ᐃ=ᑎ̇)

▷ᑎᓂᐱᑲ	▷̇ᑎᓂᐱᑲᐦ (▷+▷=▷̇)
	ᓂ̇ᑎᓂᐱᑲᐦ
	ᑎ̇ᑎᓂᐱᑲᐦ

▷ᑭ·ᑊᑎᑲ	▷̇ᑭ·ᑊᑎᑲ (▷+▷=▷̇)
	ᓂ̇ᑭ·ᑊᑎᑲ
	ᑎ̇ᑭ·ᑊᑎᑲ

Dependent noun

▷ᑉᑉᒄᐦ	ᓂ̇ᑉᑉᒄ (ᓂ+▷=ᓂ̇)
	ᑎ̇ᑉᑉᒄ (ᑎ+▷=ᑎ̇)

Do not confuse ·ᐃᐧᐦ 'meat' with ▷ᐧᐦ 'flesh of the body', which is a dependent noun:

▷ᐧᐦ	her/his own flesh
ᓂᐧᐦ	my own flesh
ᑎᐧᐦ	your own flesh

5.4   ᐋᓇ at the end of a word

A noun can be made from a verb by adding **ᐋᓇ**.

Verb	Noun
ᒡᐦᑎᐱᓐ	ᒡᐦᑎᐳ·ᐋᓇ
ᐊᔭᒡᐦᐋᔾ	ᐊᔭᒡᐦᐋ·ᐋᓇ
ᒥᐦᒐᓐ�L̇ᓂᐤ	ᒥᐦᒐᓐL̇ᓂ·ᐋᓇ
ᐃᕆᓂᐦᑲᑕ	ᐃᕆᓂᐦᑲᑕ·ᐋᓇ

5.5   ᓂ at the beginning of a word

In many words that begin with **ᓂ**, there is a tendency to write this syllabic symbol as a small **ᐋ**. This symbol is used only at the end of words.

Write…	Not…
ᓂᑐᐦᑯᔭᐋ	ᐋᑐᐦᑯᔭᐋ
ᓂᒥᑯ	ᐋᒥᑯ
ᓂᑦᐦᐅ	ᐋᑦᐦᐅ
ᓂᓐ·ᐊᐱL̇ᓂ	ᐋᑐ·ᐊᐱL̇ᓂ
ᓂᒡᒥᑲ	ᐋᒡᒥᑲ
ᓂᓐ·ᐊᓯ�ᑲ	ᐋᓐ·ᐊᓯᓱᑲ

Some numbers are pronounced two ways, with or without **ᓂ** at the beginning.

ᑯ·ᒡᐦᑲ	ᓂᑯ·ᒡᐦᑲ
ᔕᐧᐊᐧᐊ	ᓂᔕᐧᐊᐧᐊ

5.6   ᒥ at the beginning

Often words that are written with **ᒥ** at the beginning are pronounced with **ᐦᐃ** or **ᐦ**. The big **ᒥ** should still be written before **ᓐ, ᑐ, ᒡ**.

Write…	Not…
ᒥᒡL	ᐦᒡL
ᒥᓐ·ᐊᓯᓱᑲ	ᐦᓐ·ᐊᓯᓱᑲ
ᒥᒡᓂᐦ	ᐦᒡᓂᐦ
ᒥᓐᐦᐤ	ᐦᓐᐦᐤ

Also before **ᒦ**…

Write…	Not…
ᒥᒦᐦ ᒥᐦᑲᐋ	ᐦᒦ ᒥᐦᑲᐋ

ᒥᓕ" ᒌᕐᐊ   ᓯᓕ ᒌᕐᐊ

5.7   ᒋ in the middle of a word…

Write…   **Not…**

ᐧᐸᒋᑉᔪ   ᐧᐸᑉᔪ

ᐧᐄ"ᒋᑉᑎᐤ   ᐧᐄᑉᑎᐤ

ᐱᒋᑉᑎᓂᒫ   ᐱᑉᑎᓂᒫ

ᑳ"ᒋᕞᑎᓂᒫ   ᑳᕞᑎᓂᒫ

Part Six: Double Consonants

6.1 Where to write a syllabic character twice

In some words we hear double consonants. These are now written as two syllabics. For instance, the word now written as ᐱᓯᓯᑦ used to be written as ᐱᓯᑦ even though we can clearly hear the ᓯᓯ. Another example is ᐱᐦᕆᖦ, which used to be written as ᐱᐦᖦ. Sometimes, a word can be put in the diminutive twice, like the words below:

ᐊᐃᐦᑯᐊ	ᐊᐃᐦᑯᐋᔅ	ᐊᐃᐦᑯᐋᓯᓕ
bannock	small piece of bannock	cookie

·ᐊᕐᑳᐦᐄᑭᐊ	·ᐊᕐᑳᐦᐄᑭᓂᔅ	·ᐊᕐᑳᐦᐄᑭᓂᓯᓕ
house	small house/shed	Waskaganish

Other examples of words where you hear double consonants are:

ᐄᓯᓯᖦᵒ	ᒑᐸᑎᑎᖦᵉ	ᐅᕆᐦᕆᖦᵒ
ᐊᓯᓯᐦᑳᐱᖦᵒ	ᐄᒋᐊᐦᑎᒡᑭᐊᐦ	·ᐃᐦᑳᑭᑭᵉ
ᑯᒡᓯᐄᒃ<	·ᑲᐳᐱᐱᔾᵒ	ᐱᔪᔪᖤ
ᖤ·ᐄᓯᓯᒃ<	ᐳᒐᓴᓂᒷ	ᐱᒥᒷ
ᐅᑯᔪᔪᖦᵒ	ᕆᔪᔪᒷ	ᕆᑦᑎᐦᕆᖦᵒ

Note that the first syllabic of the pair is always short.

6.2 Endings for verb conjugation (#09)

The endings for the verb conjugation #09 (called the Dubitative Neutral), which can be translated as 'maybe s/he does something', are written with a double syllabic symbol ᕆᖦ.

ᓂᒥᓯᑳᖦᕆᖦ	ᓂ·ᐊᐱᐦᑎ�ᕆᖦ
ᕆᒥᓯᑳᖦᕆᖦ	ᕆ·ᐊᐱᐦᑎ�ᕆᖦ
ᒥᓯᑳᕆᖦ	·ᐊᐱᐦᑎ�ᕆᖦ
ᒥᓯᑳᕆᖦᓂᖦ	·ᐊᐱᐦᑎ�ᕆᖦᓂᖦ

Part Seven: Adding endings to nouns

7.1 Adding endings to nouns which end in ▷

When a diminutive, locative or possessive suffix is added to most words that end in ▷, the ▷ is dropped (see also Words ending with ° above).

	Diminutive	Locative/ Simulative	Possessive
ȯᐸˢ	ȯᐸᠮᢖ	ȯᐸˢᵐᒷ	᠊σȯᐸˢᴸ
ᐃˢḃˢ	ᐃᠮḃᠮᢖ	ᐃˢḃˢᵐᒷ	σᑎˢḃᴸ
▷ᑎᏞˢ	▷ᑎᏞᠮᢖ	▷ᑎᏞᵐᒷ	ȯᑎᏞᴸ
▷ᠮḃᒑˢ	▷ᠮḃᒑᢖ	▷ᠮḃᒑᵐᒷ	ȯᠮḃᒑᴸ
∧ᔆˢ	∧ᔆᠮᢖ	∧ᔆᵐᒷ	σ∧ᔆᴸ
ႱσᏟˢ	Ⴑσᒑᠮᢖ	ႱσᏟᵐᒷ	σⴑσᏟᴸ
ᐃᠮᒧᏟˢ	ᐃᠮᒧᏟᢖ	ᐃᠮᒧᏟᵐᒷ	σᑎᠮᒧᏟᴸ
ᖳḃˢ	ᖳḃᢖ	ᖳḃᵐᒷ	σᖳḃᴸ
⊲ᐃˢᒧȧˢ	⊲ᐃˢᒧȧᢖ	⊲ᐃˢᒧȧᵐᒷ	σᏟᐃˢᒧȧᴸ
ᐸᐸˢ	ᐸᐸᢖ	ᐸᐸᵐᒷ	σᐸᐸᴸ

Exceptions…

ᐧ⊲ˢ	ᐧ⊲▷ᢖ	ᐧ⊲▷ᵐᒷ	σᐧ⊲▷ᴸ

7.2 Adding endings to nouns which end in ∆

When the noun ends in ∆, often the ∆ is dropped.

	Diminutive	Locative/ Simulative	Possessive
⊲▷∆	⊲▷ᢖ	⊲▷ᵐᒷ	σ▷∆
⊲∧ᖳ∆	⊲∧ᖳᢖ	⊲∧ᖳᵐᒷ	σ∧ᖳ∆
ȧᒧᔆ▷∆	ȧᒧᔆ▷ᢖ	ȧᒧᔆ▷ᵐᒷ	σᐧȧᒧᔆ▷ᴸ

Be careful of the following words where **ᑯ** becomes **ᣜᑉ**…

	Diminutive	**Locative/ Simulative**	**Possessive**
⊲ᓂᑯᐃ	⊲ᓂᣜᑉᑍ	⊲ᓂᣜᑉᵐᴸ	ᓂᓂᑯᐃ
ᣐᑊᑯᐃ	ᣐᑊᣜᑉᑍ	ᣐᑊᣜᑉᵐᴸ	ᓂᣐᑊᣜᑉᴸ
·ᐃᑦᑯᐃ	·ᐃᑦᣜᑉᑍ	·ᐃᑦᣜᑉᵐᴸ	ᣌᑦᣜᑉᴸ
▷ᑯᑊᒥᑦᑯᐃ	▷ᑯᑊᒥᑦᣜᑉᑍ	▷ᑯᑊᒥᑦᣜᑉᵐᴸ	ᓂᑯᑊᒥᑦᑯᐃ

7.3   Adding endings to nouns which end in ᒼᵒ, ᠎ᣔᵒ, ᔭᵒ, ᐁᵒ

When a suffix for the diminutive, locative, or possessive is added to these words, the syllabic changes from ᒼᵒ to ᒼᐧ, ᣔᵒ to ᣔᐧ, ᔭᵒ to ᔨ, and ᐁᵒ to ᐁ.

	Diminutive	**Locative/ Simulative**	**Possessive**
∧ᒼᵒ	∧ᒼᐧᑍ	∧ᒼᐧᵐᴸ	ᓂ∧ᒼᐧᴸ
∧ᣔᵒ	∧ᣔᐧᣔ	∧ᣔᐧᵐᴸ	ᓂ∧ᣔᐧᴸ
ᣌ∧ᒼᵒ	ᣌ∧∧ᒼᐧᣔ	ᣌ∧ᒼᐧᵐᴸ	ᓂᣌ∧ᒼᐧᴸ
ᑭᑊᑭᒼᵒ	ᑭᑊᑭᒼᐧᣔ	ᑭᑊᑭᒼᐧᵐᴸ	ᓂᑭᑊᑭᒼᐧᴸ
▷ᑊ▷ᒥᔭᵒ	▷ᑊ▷ᒥᔨᣔ	▷ᑊ▷ᒥᔨᵐᴸ	ᣌᑊ▷ᒥᔨᴸ
ᒥᑊᒎᣔᵒ	ᒥᑊᒎᣔᐧᣔ	ᒥᑊᒎᣔᐧᵐᴸ	ᓂᒥᑊᒎᣔᐧᴸ
·⊲∧ᔭᵒ	·⊲∧ᔨᣔ	·⊲∧ᔨᵐᴸ	ᓂ·⊲∧ᔨᴸ
ᣌᑉᐁᵒ	ᣌᑉᐁᣔ	ᣌᑉᐁᵐᴸ	ᓂᣍᑉᐁᴸ

There are words which end in **ᒐ** or **ᒍ** that do not change to **ᒼᐧ** or **ᣍ**.

	Diminutive	**Locative/ Simulative**	**Possessive**
⊲ᒐ	⊲ᒐᣔ	⊲ᒐᵐᴸ	ᓂᒡᒐᴸ
ᒥᓂᒍ	ᒥᓂᒍᣔ	ᒥᓂᒍᵐᴸ	ᓂᒥᓂᒍᴸ

Part Eight: ᕠᐤ and ᒎ at the end of a word and other ...iu ...uu endings

In the Northern dialects many of the VAI verbs in the dictionary now end in either ᕠᐤ or ᒎ. This is to reflect the pronunciation of elders, as well as the fact that the verbs ending in ᕠᐤ have ᕠ in most endings.

For example ᐊᐦᑯᕠᐤ conjugates as ᓂᒑᐦᑯᕠᐊ, ᒋᒑᐦᑯᕠᐊ, ᑲ ᐊᐦᑯᕠᐨ, etc. In the grammar, we say that this verb has a stem ending in short i.

On the other hand, ᒥᒋᒎ conjugates as ᓂᒥᒋᒍᐊ, ᒋᒥᒋᒍᐊ, ᑲ ᒥᒋᒍᐨ In the grammar, we say that this verb has a stem ending in short u.

The spelling of ᐊᐦᑯᕠᐤ used to be ᐊᐦᑯᒎ but has been changed to make it much easier to write all the other endings for each verb.

Note that in the Southern dialect, people do not write the difference in the spelling of the dictionary form, and need to look up the stem to find out whether the verb conjugates with short i or short u.

ᕠᐤ or ᒎ are not the only endings that work this way. Here are some examples of the verbs in the dictionary which have a different ending in Northern and Southern, as well as ones that have the same ending.

DIFFERENT (i stem)		SAME (u stem)	
Northern	**Southern**	**Northern**	**Southern**
ᐅᑐᒋᕠᐤ	ᐅᑐᒋᒎ	ᒥᒋᒎ	ᒥᒋᒎ
ᐊᐦᑯᕠᐤ	ᐊᐦᑯᒎ	ᐱᐦᒑᒎ	ᐱᐦᒑᒎ
ᐸᔨᑯᕠᐤ	ᐸᔨᑯᔅ	·ᐃᒑᐳᓂ	·ᐃᒑᐳᓂ
ᐊᐱᐤ	ᐊᔨ	ᒑᐦᒋᔨ	ᒑᐦᒋᔨ
ᒫᕠᐤ	ᒫᒍ	ᔔᒍ	(no word)
ᐊᔨᒥᐤ	ᐊᔨᒍ	ᓂᑭᒍ	ᓂᑲᒍ
ᐱᒥᐱᔭᐤ	ᐱᒥᐸᔨ	·ᐃᔭᒎ	·ᐃᔭᐱᒎ
ᑯᔨᑯᓂᐤ	ᑯᔨᑯᔖ	·ᐸᒋᔕ	·ᐯᒋᐦᔕ
		·ᐃᓂᔔ	·ᐃᓂᔔ
ᖧᓈᓂᐤ	ᖧᓈᖧ		
ᒥ·ᓂᑭᓂᐅ	ᒥ·ᓂᑲᖧ		

8.1 Verbs ending in ᔆᵒ

Verbs ending in ᔆᵒ are illustrated below, with different endings which have ᔆ, along with other verbs that work the same way.

first person independent	third person conjunct	dictionary form
ᓂᑎ"ᑐᐱᐳ·ᓅᔆᵃ	ᐠ ᐄ"ᑎ"ᑐᐱᐳ·ᓅᔆᵀ	ᐄ"ᑎ"ᑐᐱᐳ·ᓅᔆᵒ
ᓅᑐᒋᔆᵃ	ᐠ ᐳᑐᒋᔆᵀ	ᐳᑐᒋᔆᵒ
ᓅᒋ�L·ᐊᔑ"Ćᑯᔆᵃ	ᐠ ᐳᒋL·ᐊᔑ"Ćᑯᔆᵀ	ᐳᒋL·ᐊᔑ"Ćᑯᔆᵒ
ᓂᐱᕐᑿĆᔑ"Ćᑯᔆᵃ	ᐠ ᐱᕐᑿĆᔑ"Ćᑯᔆᵀ	ᐱᕐᑿĆᔑ"Ćᑯᔆᵒ
ᓅᑯᓐᔆᵃ	ᐠ ᐳᑯᓐᔆᵀ	ᐳᑯᓐᔆᵒ
ᓅᑿᔆᒋᒥᵃ	ᐠ ᐳᑿᔆᒋᒥᵀ	ᐳᑿᔆᒋᒥᵒ
ᓂᐸĆᖬᓐᒋᐱᵃ	ᐠ ᐸĆᖬᓐᒋᐱᵀ	ᐸĆᖬᓐᒋᐱᵒ

8.2 Verbs ending in ᔑ

Verbs ending in ᔑ are illustrated below, with different endings which have ᔑ, along with other verbs that work the same way. In these verbs you can still hear the ᔑ sound at the end when different endings are used. For a word like ᒌᒋᔑ you cannot say ᓂᒌᒋᔆᵃ or ᐠ ᒌᒋᔆᵀ so it will not take the ᔆᵒ ending. But you can still hear the ᐳ sound when you say ᓂᒌᒋᔌᵃ or ᐠ ᒌᒋᔌᵀ so it takes a ᔑ ending. The rule is the same for any of the other consonants ᑯ, ᒧ and so on.

first person independent	third person conjunct	dictionary form
ᓅᑎ"Ćᐱᔌᵃ	ᐠ ᐳᑎ"Ćᐱᔌᵀ	ᐳᑎ"Ćᐱᔑ
ᓅĆᑯᓐᐳᒌᒋᔌᵃ	ᐠ ᐳĆᑯᓐᐳᒌᒋᔌᵀ	ᐳĆᑯᓐᐳᒌᒋᔑ
ᓅᒋ·ᑿᔌᵃ	ᐠ ᐳᒋ·ᑿᔌᵀ	ᐳᒋ·ᑿᔑ
ᓂᐱ"Ćᔌᵃ	ᐠ ᐱ"Ćᔌᵀ	ᐱ"Ćᔑ
ᓅᒋᐱᓐᑯᵃ	ᐠ ᐳᒋᐱᓐᑯᵀ	ᐳᒋᐱᓐᑯ
ᓂᐱᕝĆᐳĊᒧᵃ	ᐠ ᐱᕝĆᐳĊᒧᵀ	ᐱᕝĆᐳĊᒧ
ᓂᐱ"ᓐĊĊᒋᒧᵃ	ᐠ ᐱ"ᓐĊĊᒋᒧᵀ	ᐱ"ᓐĊĊᒋᒧ

Part Nine: Boundaries

9. 1. Adding a personal prefix

9.1.1 Personal Prefix on Nouns

The personal prefixes are **σ, Ր, ▷,** and are added to possessed nouns. The personal prefixes **σ, Ր** are added to Independent verb stems. They are written joined to the word or the first preverb.

<div align="center">

ᓂᓂᐸ

</div>

ᓇᐳ	σᓂᓂᐱ�L
ᑭᐳ	ՐᓂᓂᐱL
·ᐃᐳ	▷ᓂᓂᐱL"
ᓇᔮᐤ	σᓂᓂᐱᒥ�ᐤ
ᑭᔮσ°	Րᓂᓂᐱᒥσ°
·ᐃᐳ·ᐊ°	Րᓂᓂᐱᒥ·ᐊ°
	▷ᓂᓂᐱᒥ·ᐊ°"

If the word begins with **Δ** or **◁**, then add **σՈ, ՐՈ, or ▷Ո.**

<div align="center">

◁·ᐊᒐ

</div>

ᓇᐳ	σՈ·ᐊᒐᓂL
ᑭᐳ	ՐՈ·ᐊᒐᓂL
·ᐃᐳ	▷Ո·ᐊᒐᓂL"

<div align="center">

Δᖁᑳ°

</div>

ᓇᐳ	σՈᖁᑳL
ᑭᐳ	ՐՈᖁᑳL
·ᐃᐳ	▷ՈᖁᑳL"

If the noun begins with ▷, then use ᐊᖑ for the first person (ᖒᕆ my, ᖒᕝᓗ our but not your) and ᑯ for the second person (ᑭᕝᓂᓕ our (you and I) , ᑭᕆ, ᑭᕆᐧᐊᓕ your); for the third person (ᐧᐃᕆ her/his, ᐧᐃᕆᐧᐊᓕ their) use a long ▷:

<div align="center">

▷ᑕᐸᓕ

</div>

my	ᐊᖑᑕᐸᓕ	our	ᐊᖑᑕᐸᓂᖑᓕ
		our	ᑯᑕᐸᓂᓂᓕ
your	ᑯᑕᐸᓕ	your	ᑯᑕᐸᓂᐧᐊᓕ
her/his	▷ᑕᐸᓕ	their	▷ᑕᐸᓂᐧᐊᓕ

Note that some people would like to write ▷ twice for ▷ᑕᐸᓕ: ▷▷ᑕᐸᓕ but this creates problems with the current technology where all double vowels are automatically converted to long vowels in typing tools and syllabic convertors.

Note that it is a very common for children to use ᒍ instead of ᑯ in words (this is a language change that makes it more regular):

Write the traditional form...	**Not ...**
ᑯᐦᑕᐧᐃ	ᒍᐦᑕᐧᐃ
ᑯᑕᐸᓕ	ᒍᑕᐸᓕ
ᑯᕆᕒᒪ	ᒍᕆᕒᒪ

For some nouns these prefixes are already part of the word. These words are mostly names of relatives and body parts and are called dependent nouns (marked **nad** or **nid** in the dictionary).

ᓂᑯᕆᕐ	ᓂᕝᐸᑦ
ᒥᑯᕆᕐ	ᒥᕝᐸᑦ
▷ᑯᕆᕐᐦ	▷ᕝᐸᑦ

A few dependent nouns are not the names of relatives or body parts.

ᐊᓇᒪ		ᒥᑕᕐ	ᕆᐧᐊᑦ
ᓂᑕᒪ	ᖒᕝ	ᓂᑕᕐ	ᖒᐧᐊᑦ
ᒥᑕᒪ	ᕆᕝ	ᒥᑕᕐ	ᕆᐧᐊᑦ
▷ᑕᒪᐦ	ᐧᐃᕝ	▷ᑕᕐ	ᐧᐃᐧᐊᑦ

The word ◁▷∆ has different pronunciations:

Full form (possessive prefix + t + apui)   Contracted form

σՈ>∆   σ>∆
ՐՈ>∆   Ր>∆
▷Ո>∆"   ▷>∆"

9.1.2 Personal Prefix on Verbs

The personal prefixes **σ, Ր** are added to Independent verb stems. They are joined to the word or the first preverb. Note that there is no personal prefix added before the third person (he, she, her/his X) forms.

<p align="center">ᒋᑫ</p>

ᓂᐱ   σᒋᑫᖳ
ᑭᐱ   Րᒋᑫᖳ
·ᐃᐱ   ᒋᑫ
ᓂᐸᖳ   σᒋᑫᒐ
ᑭᐸᓄ   Րᒋᑫᒐᓄ
ᑭᐱ·◁ᵒ   Րᒋᑫᒐ·◁ᵒ
·ᐃᐱ·◁ᵒ   ▷ᔆᔆᐱᒋ·◁ᵒ"

If the verb begins with **∆** or **◁**, then add **σՈ, ՐՈ,** or **▷Ո.**

<table>
<tr><td></td><td align="center">◁Λᵒ</td><td align="center">∆ᑉᖯᒍ</td></tr>
<tr><td>ᓂᐱ</td><td>σՈΛᵃ</td><td>σՈᑉᖯᒍᵃ</td></tr>
<tr><td>ᑭᐱ</td><td>ՐՈΛᵃ</td><td>ՐՈᑉᖯᒍᵃ</td></tr>
<tr><td>·ᐃᐱ</td><td>◁Λᵒ</td><td>∆ᑉᖯᒍ</td></tr>
</table>

If the verb begins with **▷**, then use **ᓄ** for the first person (ᓂᐱ 'I', ᓂᐸᖳ 'we (but not you)' and **ᒍ** for the second person (ᑭᐱ 'you [singular]', ᑭᐸᓄ 'we (you and I)', ᑭᐱ·◁ᵒ 'you [plural]'); for the third person no personal prefix is used on verbs.

	ᐅ"ᕆᐤ	ᐅᑎᓂᒫ
ᓅᔆ	ᓇ"ᕆᐞ	ᓇᑎᐒᐞ
ᕆᔆ	ᖁ"ᕆᐞ	ᖁᑎᐒᐞ
ᓅᔟᐞ	ᓇ"ᕆᐒᐞ	ᓇᑎᐒᐒᐞ
ᕆᔟᓂᐤ	ᖁ"ᕆᐒᓂᐤ	ᖁᑎᐒᓂᐤ
ᕆᔆ·ᐊᐤ	ᖁ"ᕆᐒ·ᐊᐤ	ᖁᑎᐒᐒ·ᐊᐤ
·ᐃᔆ	ᐅ"ᕆᐤ	ᐅᑎᓂᒫ
·ᐃᔆ·ᐊᐤ	ᐅ"ᕆ·ᐃᐦ	ᐅᑎᓂᒧᐦ

Note that it is very common for children to use **ᒍ** instead of **ᖁ** in words, due to regular language change:

Write...	**Not...**
ᖁ"ᐨᐃ	ᒍ"ᐨᐃ
ᖁᐨᐸᐞ	ᒍᐨᐸᐞ
ᖁᕈᕈᒫ	ᒍᕈᕈᒫ

9.2   Using preverbs

A preverb is a short word, used before a verb. When there are several preverbs they occur in a fixed order: first the ones that indicate grammatical ideas such as subordination, then, the ones for tense (future, past), then, the ones for mood (want, can, should) and then the lexical ones indicating aspect or quality. These preverbs are written separately from the verb. Here are some examples:

with an Independent verb   with a Conjunct verb

	with an Independent verb	with a Conjunct verb
present or neutral		ḃ σ◁ᐧᶜ
present or neutral		◁ᐦ σ◁ᐧᶜ
future	ᒥᑭ σ◁ᐧᐤ	ů σ◁ᐧᶜ
future	ᑭᑎ σ◁ᐧᐤ	
past	ṙᐦ σ◁ᐧᐤ	ḃᐦ σ◁ᐧᶜ
should have	ᒥᐱᐦ σ◁ᐧᐤ	
should	ᑭᑎ σ◁ᐧᐦ	
should	ᒥᑭ σ◁ᐧᐦ	
want to	·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᐤ	ḃ ·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᶜ / ·◁ᐦ σ◁ᐧᶜ
go to	σᐠ σ◁ᐧᐤ	◁ᐦ σᐠ σ◁ᐧᶜ / ȧᐠ σ◁ᐧᶜ

Preverbs can undergo initial change , like ȧᐠ and ·◁ᐦ above. This happens only when they end up in the first position, when there is no preverb ◁ᐦ or ḃᐦ occupying the first position.

If there is more than one preverb, they are all written separately from each other.

with an Independent verb	**with a Conjunct verb**
ᒥᑭ ·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᐤ	ḃ ṙ σ◁ᐧᶜ
ṙᐦ ·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᐤ	◁ᐦ ṙᐦ σ◁ᐧᶜ
ᒥᐱᐦ ṙᐦ σ◁ᐧᐤ	◁ᐦ ·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᶜ
ᒥᑭ ṙᐦ σ◁ᐧᐤ	ů ṙᐦ σ◁ᐧᶜ

If a preverb occurs after a personal prefix σ or ᒥ, the prefix σ or ᒥ is joined to the first preverb. These personal prefixes are used only with Independent verbs. Any preverb following the first one is separated.

σ·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᵃ	σᑭ ·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᵃ
σᑭ σ◁ᐧᵃ	ᒥᑭ ·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᵃ
ᒥᑭ σ◁ᐧᵃ	ᒥᐱᐦ ·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᵃ
σᐱᐦ σ◁ᐧᵃ	σᐱᐦ ·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᵃ
	σṙᐦ ·Ȧᐦ σ◁ᐧᵃ

In the examples below, see how the lexical preverb ᓂᑐ is written separately from the past preverb ᒌᐦ in the independent order, and from the preverb ᐋᐦ in the conjunct order. In the last example, initial change (or changed conjunct) has turned ᓂᑐ to ᓈᑐ. See also how the personal prefix ᓂ, attaches to the first preverb in the second sentence.

ᒌᐦ ᓂᑐ ·�bᐱᓛᐤ° ᐊᓂ�革ᐦ ᐊᐦ ᐸᐦᐸᐦᒋᔅᐱᔅᖐᕁᐁᐤₓ

chiih nituu kwaapichaau anitaah aah paahpaachispiskaayich.

's/he went to fetch the water where it is rocky.'

ᓂᒌᐦ ᓂᑐ ·ᖐᐱᓛᐤ° ᐊᓂᐤᒃᐦ ᐊᐦ ᐸᐦᐸᐦᒋᔅᐱᔅᖐᐤₓ

nichiih nituu kwaapichaan anitaah aah paahpaachispiskaach.

'I went to fetch the water where it is rocky.'

ᐋᐦ ᓂᑐ ᑭᓂ·ᐋᔨᒫᐅᓱᒡ ᐄᔅᐱᔨᐦᐄᑯ ·ᐋᔅ ᐅᐦᑖ·ᐄᐦₓ

aah nituu kiniwaayimaausut iispiyihiikuu waas uhtaawiih.

'…when she goes to baby-sit, (so) her father drives her.'

ᓈᑐ ᓂᑎ·ᐋᐱᒫᒡ ᐊᓂᔮᐦ ᒋᔖᔨᔨᐤᐦₓ

naatuu nitiwaapimaat aniyaah chishaayiyiuh.

'…then s/he goes to see that old man/men.'

Some preverbs can also be used as verb initial and are then written together with the verb. For example: in ᓂᑐᐦᐅ , the ᓂᑐ part is called an initial. The rule to use is: Whenever a preverb is before a verb that exists on its own, the preverb will be separated from the verb, unless it is a fairly common verb. To learn more about preverbs and see more examples, see the preverbs grammar page (http://www.eastcree.org/cree/en/grammar/northern-dialect/verbs/preverbs/) and look up preverbs in the parts of speech in the online dictionary.

Note: Some preverbs can also be used before a noun, in this case they are called 'preforms'. Preforms are written attached to the noun. Example: ᒥᔪᐱᒫᑎᓯᐃᐧᐣ **miyu**pimaatisiiwin. For more examples, see the grammar section on Word formation: Preform + Noun. (http://www.eastcree.org/cree/en/grammar/northern-dialect/word-formation/noun-structure/compound-nouns-a2/)

9.3 Making compound words

Two or three words can be joined together to make one new word, but there are usually spelling changes when this happens. Here are some examples:

ᓂᑭᒎ + ᒥᕐᓂᐦᐅᑭᕋ	=	ᓂᑭᒎᕐᓂᐦᐅᑭᕋ
·ᐊᑊᑲᐦᐅᑭᓂᓲ + ᐅᔮᕐ°	=	·ᐊᑊᑲᐦᐅᑭᓂᓲᔓᐅᐅᔮᕐ°
ᐅᒡᐸᑲ + ᒀᑊᑭᓂ°	=	ᐅᒡᐸᑲᓂᒀᑊᑭᓂ°
ᐃᕁᑐᒼᐸ° + ᐅᒡᐸᑲ	=	ᐃᕁᑐᒼᐸᐅᒡᐸᑲ
·ᐊᔨᐱᑲ + ᐊᒋᕁᑐᕁᓰ	=	·ᐊᔨᐱᓂᒋᕁᑐᕁᓰ
ᒥᕝᐃᑐ + ᐊᒥᕁ·ᑲᑲ	=	ᒥᕝᐃ·ᑲᒥᕁ·ᑲᑲ
ᐅᑲ·ᐊᑕᒼ° + ᑭᓲᑲ°	=	ᐅᑲ·ᐊᑕᐅᑭᓲᑲ°
ᒥᔫᐸᐅ° + ᑲᑭᕁᐅᑭᕋ	=	ᒥᔫᐸᐸᐅᑲᕁᐅᑭᕋ
ᒼᕁ·ᑲ° + ᐅᒋᑯᓲ°	=	ᒼᕁ·ᑲᐅᒋᑯᓲ°
·ᐊᒥᔫᐣᑯᔒ° + ᕁᕆᒲ	=	·ᐊᒥᔫᐣᑯᔓᐅᕁᕆᒲ

More examples can be found in the Word Formation section of the grammar under Noun + Noun, Verb + Noun, and Verb + Verb.

Part Ten: Punctuation

The only punctuation used in Cree texts for schools are a comma (**,**) to mark clauses within a sentence and a period (**x**) to mark the end of a sentence:

ᓂᒎᐃ ᑅᕁᒥ ·ᐅᕆᒫᘅᑲ ᑅᕁᒉ·ᐅ**,** ᒷᕁ ᐊᕁᑯᔓ°**,** ᐊᕁᑯᔨᐅᕆᑯᕁᔨᓄᒍᕁᑯᘅᓂᕆᑯᕁᔓᕫ ᑕᕁ ᐃᕁᒉ°
ᒥᑅᔨᐱᕁᔓ**x**

ᒎᔓ ᑲ ᑕ ᐃᒉᑭᓂᐅ·ᐃᔓ ᐊ·ᐊᓂᑕ ᒦ ᒥᕁᒐᔭᒉ ᒥᔫᐸᐅᕁ**,** ᑯᐣᑊᕁ ᐊ·ᐊᔓᕁ**,** ᐊ·ᐊᔨᕁᕁ ᑭᔨᕁ
ᐊᓂᔨᕁ ᒣ·ᑲᔓᕁ ᐊᐣ ᐃᔓᑕᐱᕁᒉᕫ ᒣ·ᑲᔓ ᐊᕁ ·ᐅᕁ ᐃᕁᒍᐣᒫᔒᐄᕫ**x**

Additionally, *italics* are used to mark dialogue and direct speech in a sentence.

ᓂᑯᐣᕋ ᐊᕁ ᕁᔓᑲᕌ ᐊ·ᑲᔓᕫ ᓂᕁᒡᕁ, ***ᓂᑭ ᐊᕁᑲᚌ*** **x**
ᒐᕫ ᐅᕁᒥ ᓂᐣ·ᐊᔓᕁᒐᑯᔓ° ᐊ·ᐊᑲ ᒧ ᕁᕁ ᐃᔓᕫ, ***ᒥᔫᔭᕁ ᓂᓂᘅᕁᐊᕫ,*** ᒻᕁ ᑲ ᕁᕁ ᐃᔓᕫ, ***ᑲ***
·ᐊᔓᘅᔓᕫ ᑭᔓᕁ ᒫᕫ ᕈᒲ ᓂᓂᘅᕁᒐᕫ **x**

Part Eleven: Writing Names

Writing the names of children in Cree Syllabics is very difficult these days when parents often give their sons and daughters English names which have non-Cree sounds and unusual spellings. The teacher and the parent may often have different ways of pronouncing, and therefore spelling, the child's name. The child may in fact change the way she or he wishes to spell their name in Syllabics after several years of schooling in Cree.

It is up to the teacher and the parent to agree on what to do, with the understanding that there can be two right ways to spell names, and that the child can choose for herself or himself, usually around grade 3.

The Terminology Forum on the eastcree.org website suggests the Cree syllabics spelling of over 2,700 names: Terminology.eastcree.org

Part Twelve: Standard Roman Orthography (SRO)

12.1 Definition

A standard roman orthography (SRO) is one that exactly matches the syllabic standard orthography. It is useful for typing tools, for computers and for automatic conversions from roman to syllabics and from syllabics to roman. You can find an automatic convertor at: http://syllabics.atlas-ling.ca/

12.2 Vowel length: hats or double vowels

Long vowels in syllabics are marked with a dot above the syllabic character. In roman, there are several options for indicating vowel length by using either double vowels or a hat over the vowel:

Dot above (Syllabics)	Double vowel	Hat over vowel
△̇	ii	î
▷̇	uu	û
◁̇	aa	â

In other variants of Cree a macron (for example ā, ī, ū) is used, but not in East Cree. The double vowel is often easier to type but makes the word look longer.

▽ (e) is always long, but never written with a dot above in syllabics, or in roman, as ee or ê., although in some other variants of Cree, it is written ê.

12.3 Combination of finals

When finals combine it is important to distinguish the sequence of characters that corresponds to two different syllabic characters from the ones that correspond to just one syllabic character. This is why in roman orthography, the hyphen (-) is used to make this distinction:

Compare…		with...	
t-h	ᑦᐦ	th	ᒉ
s-h	ᐢᐦ	sh	ᕽ
p-h	ᑉᐦ	ph	ᗈ

The hyphen is only used when there is a possibility for ambiguity.