

KWIN TLAYAM LO HANIS TLI'IIS

Let's Speak the Hanis Language

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Well, as some of you may already know, we are beginning a native language program. First we're working on Hanis. To those more interested in Milluk or Siuslaw/Umpqua, this early work on Hanis will help you too! For one thing, we're going to use the same orthography (writing system) for all the languages, they share a lot of sounds, and so a bit of practice at Hanis will give you a step up in learning Milluk or Siuslaw/Umpqua later.

There will eventually be recordings of words available, both online and on CDs. But seeing and hearing words can help reinforce them in your memory, so from here on out we are going to use one writing system to represent the Native words. Here is the pronunciation chart to help you do that.

THE VOWELS:

The native languages have pretty much all the same vowels English does. Here is how to represent those sounds:

a	Like the 'a' in <i>father</i>
e	Like the flat sort of 'a' in words like <i>cat</i> , <i>sat</i> . Some linguists thought this sound was more like halfway between the short 'e' sound in <i>bet</i> , <i>set</i> .
i	Like the short 'i' in <i>bit</i> , <i>sit</i> .
ii	Like the long 'ee' sound in <i>weed</i> , <i>deed</i> .
o	This one will be very unlike how you usually picture sounds represented by 'o'. We'll be using it to represent the schwa, or neutral vowel. This is like the 'a' in <i>about</i> , or the 'a' in <i>sofa</i> . A kind of an 'uh' sound.
u	Like the vowel in <i>good</i> , <i>book</i> , <i>brook</i> .
uu	Like the 'oo' sound in <i>brood</i> . As we'll learn later, sometimes in words this sound comes out more like the long 'o' sound in <i>boat</i> .

Combinations of two vowels – diphthongs – will be represented by *ai* for the 'i' in *bite*, and *au* for the 'ow' sound in *grout*.

THE CONSONANTS:

For most consonants – like b, d, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, s, t, z, assume they are similar to English. However, Hanis (and Milluk and Siuslaw/Umpqua too) contain some consonant sounds NOT found in English. Or at least a little bit different. So we'll illustrate them here.

ts	This is just like the 'ts' sound you find at the end of English words like <i>cats</i> . Unlike English, in Hanis the <i>ts</i> sound can be found at the beginning of words. It takes just a bit of practice to get comfortable saying <i>ts</i> at the start of a word, like the word <i>tsolats</i> , evening low tide.
hl	<i>hl</i> will stand in for a sound that is, essentially, a silent <i>l</i> . To make this sound, pretend you are about to say 'la'. Put the tip of your tongue behind the top of your upper front teeth, but instead of voicing it to make an 'l' sound, blow air. This is a common sound in Hanis, like the word <i>hla</i> , to go.
tl	Like a voiceless version of the <i>dl</i> sound in English words like <i>puddle</i> , <i>muddle</i> .
x	This is a raspy h sound. For students of German, this is like the <i>ch</i> in German words like <i>Bach</i> .
xx	A raspy h sound like above, but pronounced further back in the mouth.
gh	This is the voiced version of the <i>x</i> .
q	A sound like <i>k</i> , but pronounced further back in the mouth.
'	The apostrophe will stand in for what is called a glottal stop. It is a break between vowels, like what you get between the two syllables of <i>uh-oh</i> . Also, the glottal stop can follow a consonant, making the consonant 'pop', like in the word <i>k'a</i> , rope.