

1 The Cherokee Syllabary

D _a	R _c	T _i	Ꭰ _o	Ꭱ _u	Ꭲ _v
Ꭶ _{ga} Ꭷ _{ka}	Ꭵ _{ge}	Ꭸ _{gi}	Ꭲ _{go}	Ꭳ _{gu}	Ꭴ _{gv}
Ꭹ _{ha}	Ꭶ _{he}	Ꭺ _{hi}	Ꭳ _{ho}	Ꭴ _{hu}	Ꭵ _{hv}
Ꭼ _{la}	Ꭷ _{le}	Ꭻ _{li}	Ꭴ _{lo}	Ꭶ _{lu}	Ꭷ _{lv}
Ꭽ _{ma}	Ꭸ _{me}	Ꭼ _{mi}	Ꭵ _{mo}	Ꭷ _{mu}	
Ꭾ _{na} Ꭿ _{hna} Ꮀ _{nah}	Ꭹ _{nc}	Ꭽ _{ni}	Ꭶ _{no}	Ꭸ _{nu}	Ꭳ _{nv}
Ꮁ _{qua}	Ꭺ _{que}	Ꭾ _{qui}	Ꭷ _{quo}	Ꭹ _{quu}	Ꭴ _{quv}
Ꮂ _{sa} Ꮃ _s	Ꭻ _{se}	Ꭿ _{si}	Ꭸ _{so}	Ꭺ _{su}	Ꭵ _{sv}
Ꮄ _{da} Ꮅ _{ta}	Ꭼ _{de} Ꭽ _{te}	Ꮀ _{di} Ꮁ _{ti}	Ꭹ _{do}	Ꭻ _{du}	Ꭶ _{dv}
Ꮆ _{dla} Ꮇ _{tla}	Ꭾ _{tle}	Ꮂ _{tli}	Ꭺ _{tlo}	Ꭼ _{tlu}	Ꭷ _{tlv}
Ꮈ _{tsa}	Ꭿ _{tse}	Ꮃ _{tsi}	Ꭻ _{tso}	Ꭽ _{tsu}	Ꭸ _{tsv}
Ꮉ _{wa}	Ꮀ _{we}	Ꮄ _{wi}	Ꭼ _{wo}	Ꭾ _{wu}	Ꭹ _{wv}
Ꮊ _{ya}	Ꮁ _{ye}	Ꮅ _{yi}	Ꭽ _{yo}	Ꭿ _{yu}	Ꭺ _{yv}

2 Key to Pronunciation

Vowel Sounds

- a: as (a) in father, or short as (a) in rival
- e: as (a) in hate, or short as (e) in met
- i: as (i) in pique or pig, or short as (i) in pit
- o: as (o) in note, approaching (aw) in law
- u: as (oo) in fool, or short as (u) in pull
- v: as (u) in but, nasalized

Consonant Sounds

g: nearly as in English (g)oa**t**, but approaching to (k)ite. So that syllables beginning with g, except **Ꭶ** (ga) will sometimes sound like (k).

d: nearly as in English (d)am, but approaching to (t)ask. In addition, as there are no (to), (tu), and (tv) symbols, words pronounced with these sounds are written with the **Ꭾ** (do), **Ꭶ** (du), or **Ꭸ** (dv) symbols. One has to remember the pronunciation.

h k l m n q s t w y as in English.

The **Ꮁ** (qua), **Ꭺ** (que), **Ꭾ** (qui), **Ꭶ** (quo), **Ꭹ** (quu), and **Ꭴ** (quv) are pronounced as though they were kwa, kwe, kwi, kwo, kwu, and kwv.

Syllables written with (tl) except **Ꮇ** (tla) sometimes sound more like they start with (dl). When pronouncing the dla, tla, tle, tli,

tlo, tlu, and tlv, place the tongue at the roof of the mouth and bring it down as you speak these syllables.

The ts in **Ꭾ** (tsa), **Ꭾ** (tse), **Ꭼ** (tsi), **Ꭻ** (tso), **Ꭽ** (tsu), and **Ꭸ** (tsv) have the sound of the (j) as in jaun**t**.

The Syllabary does not provide symbols to indicate unvoiced vowels, glottal stops, lengthened vowels, and stressed syllables. These will be indicated in the pronunciation guides as follows:

- Unvoiced vowels: A (') will replace the vowel. Buffalo. **ᎠᎠᎠ**. yan' se.
- Glottal stops: A (?) will be inserted. A glottal stop is a very short pause to prevent syllables from combining together. Skunk. **ᎠᎦ**. di?li.
- Stress is indicated by (') after the vowel. **ᎠᎢᎢ** O' si yo.
- A lengthened/double long vowel is indicated by a (:) after the vowel. I go. **ᎦᎦ**. ge: ga.

This abbreviated pronunciation guide is adapted from the more complete pronounced guide as used in *Beginning Cherokee* **ᎠᎦᎠ ᎦᎦᎦ ᎠᎦᎦ ᎠᎦᎦ ᎠᎦᎦ ᎠᎦᎦ ᎠᎦᎦ ᎠᎦᎦ** by Ruth Bradley Holmes and Betty Sharp Smith. Additional information was adapted from the *Easy to use Cherokee Tsa La Gi Dictionary* by Prentice Robinson.