

Upper Tanana Alphabet

These are the symbol and symbol combinations used to represent the phonemes of Upper Tanana in the Yukon Native Language Centre Orthography. Phonemes that have restricted use are indicated in brackets.

Consonants

← front of mouth back of mouth →

| | labial | dental | alveolar | lateral | post-alveolar | palatal | velar | glottal |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------------|---------|-------|---------|
| aspirated plosives (stops) | | | t | | | | k | ' |
| unaspirated plosives (stops) | (b) | | d | | | | g | |
| ejective plosives (stops) | | | t' | | | | k' | |
| nasals | m | | n | | | | gn | |
| voiceless nasals | | | nh | | | | | |
| prenasalized plosives | (mb) | | (nd) | | | | | |
| voiceless fricatives | | th | s | ɬ | sh | shy | x | h |
| voiced fricatives | | (dh) | | | | | | |
| aspirated affricates | | tth | ts | tl | ch | | | |
| unaspirated affricates | | ddh | dz | dl | j | | | |
| ejective affricates | | tth' | ts' | tl' | ch' | | | |
| voiced approximants | w | | | l | | y | | |
| voiceless approximants | | | | | | yh | | |

Vowels

- Nasalized vowels are written with a nasalization hook under the vowel, as for example ɥ.
- High tone vowels are unmarked, as for example u.
- Low tone vowels are indicated with a grave accent, as for example ù.
- Rising tone is indicated with a caron (hachek) over the vowel, as for example ă.
- Falling tone is indicated with a circumflex over the vowel, as for example â.
- Information that Dr. Olga Lovick made available from her grammar of Upper Tanana (2020) was used in updating this alphabet chart.
- Lovick, Olga. 2020. A Grammar of Upper Tanana, Volume 1: Phonology, Lexical Classes, Morphology. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Vowels

| | Short Vowels | | | Long Vowels | | | Diphthongs |
|-------|--------------|---------|------|-------------|---------|------|------------|
| | front | central | back | front | central | back | front |
| close | i | | u | ii | | uu | ia, io |
| mid | e | ü | ä, o | ee | üü | oo | (ea) |
| open | | a | | | aa | | |



Council of Yukon First Nations



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Consonants

← front of mouth back of mouth

| | labial | dental | alveolar | lateral | post-alveolar | palatal | velar | glottal |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| aspirated plosives (stops) | | | t, /t ^h / | | | | k, /k ^h / | ʔ, /ʔ/ |
| unaspirated plosives (stops) | (b), /b/ | | d, /t/ | | | | g, /k/ | |
| ejective plosives (stops) | | | tʔ, /tʔ/ | | | | kʔ, /kʔ/ | |
| nasals | m, /m/ | | n, /n/ | | | | gn, /ŋ/ | |
| voiceless nasals | | | nh, /ŋ̥/ | | | | | |
| prenasalized plosives | (mb), / ^m b/ | | (nd), / ⁿ t/ | | | | | |
| voiceless fricatives | | th, /θ/ | s, /s/ | ɬ, /ɬ/ | sh, /ʃ/ | shy, /ʃ ^j / | x, /x/ | h, /h/ |
| voiced fricatives | | (dh), /ð/ | | | | | | |
| aspirated affricates | | tth, /tθ ^h / | ts, /ts ^h / | tl, /tɬ ^h / | ch, /tʃ ^h / | | | |
| unaspirated affricates | | ddh, /tθ/ | dz, /ts/ | dl, /tɬ/ | j, /tʃ/ | | | |
| ejective affricates | | tthʔ, /tθʔ/ | tsʔ, /tsʔ/ | tlʔ, /tɬʔ/ | chʔ, /tʃʔ/ | | | |
| voiced approximants | w, /w/ | | | l, /l/ | | y, /j/ | | |
| voiceless approximant | | | | | | yh, /j̥/ | | |

Nasalization and Tone

- Nasalized vowels are written with a nasalization hook under the vowel, as for example *j̃*.
- High tone vowels are unmarked, as for example *u*.
- Low tone vowels are indicated with a grave accent, as for example *ù*.
- Rising tone is indicated with a caron (hacek) over the vowel, as for example *ǔ*.
- Falling tone is indicated with a circumflex over the vowel, as for example *û*.

Consonants

- The aspirated stops /t^h/ and /k^h/ are often pronounced with velar rather than glottal aspiration [t^x], [k^x].
- The partially voiced (lenis) allophones of the voiceless fricatives are morphologically determined. When it is desirable to indicate these allophones in writing they can be distinguished from the fully voiced allophones by using a macron below: < th, z, ɬ, sh, x >.
- The /m/ and /n/ phonemes have pre-nasalized allophones that are written as < mb, nd >.
- [ŋ] is not a phoneme in the language, but arises when /k/ (orthographic < g >) is followed by /n/ and a vocalic suffix.

Vowels

| | Short Vowels | | | Long Vowels | | | Diphthongs |
|-------|--------------|---------|-------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| | front | central | back | front | central | back | front |
| close | i, /i/ | | u, /u/ | ii, /i:/ | | uu, /u:/ | ia, /ia/ io, /io/ |
| mid | e, /e/ | ü, /ɘ/ | ä, /ɘ̃/ o, /ɔ/ | ee, /e:/ | üü, /ɘ:/ | oo, /o:/ | (ea), /ea/ |
| open | | a, /a/ | | | aa, /a:/ | | |

Vowels

- /u/ is [u] in prefix syllables.
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