



Chahta Im Annopa

Hiyohli Alhiha

CHAHTA IM ANNOPA HIYOHLI ALHÍHA

MODERN

Letter	Pronounced like:	Choctaw word	English meaning
A, a	'a' as in father or 'u' as in cup	apah	to eat
Á, á	'a' as in pa	ábinili	chair
A, a	'an' as in wand	ǵchi	quilt
Ai, ai	'i' as in like	aitatóba	store
B, b	'b' as in bee	bashpo	knife
Ch, ch	'ch' as in cheese	chokfih	rabbit
E, e	'e' as in see or 'e' as in me	apelah	help
F, f	'f' as in fee	fichik	star
H, h	'h' as in he	hapih	salt
I, i	'i' as in pit	ibbak	hand
I, i	'in' as in ink	iki	father
K, k	'k' as in key	kittih	mortar
L, l	'l' as in leap	losa	black
Lh, lh	as in 'thl'	lhakoh	strong
M, m	'm' as in me	mahha	pan
N, n	'n' as in no	nita	bear
O, o	'o' as in woman	ofi	dog
Ó, ó	'o' as in board	ótih	kindle a fire
Q, q	'on' as in won't	qbah	rain
P, p	'p' as in pea	piti	mouse
S, s	's' as in sea	siti	snake
Sh, sh	'sh' as in she	shokshi	watermelon
T, t	't' as in tea	tachi	corn
W, w	'w' as in we	wák	cow
Y, y	'y' as in you	yolhkon	mole

SCHOOL

Letter	Pronounced like:	Chahta annopa	English meaning
A, a	'a' as in father	apah	to eat
Á, á	'a' as in pa	áçih	say
A, a	'an' as in wand	ǵçi	quilt
B, b	'b' as in bee	bakbak	woodpecker
Ç, ç	'ç' as in cheese	çokfih	rabbit
F, f	'f' as in fee	fichik	star
H, h	'h' as in he	hapih	salt
I, i	'i' as in it	ibbak	hand
Í, í	'i' as in liter	šfkih	buzzard
I, i	'in' as in ink	iki	father
K, k	'k' as in key	kittih	mortar
L, l	'l' as in leap	losa	black
L, l	as in 'thl'	łakoh	strong
M, m	'm' as in me	mahha	a pan
N, n	'n' as in no	nita	bear
O, o	'o' as in woman	ofi	dog
Ó, ó	'o' as in board	hopónih	cook
Q, q	'on' as in won't	qbah	rain
P, p	'p' as in pea	piti	mouse
S, s	's' as in sea	siti	snake
Š, š	'sh' as in she	šokši	watermelon
T, t	't' as in tea	tachi	corn
W, w	'w' as in we	wák	cow
Y, y	'y' as in yeast	yolhkon	mole

OLD

Letter	Pronounced like:	Choctaw word	English meaning
A, a	'a' as in father	apa	to eat
U, u	'u' as in cup	kwshti	flea
A, a	'an' as in wand	akaka	chicken
Ai, ai	'i' as in pipe	hopaii	prophet
B, b	'b' as in but	bushpo	knife
Ch, ch	'ch' as in cheese	chito	big
E, e	'e' as in see or 'e' as in me	apelah	help
F, f	'f' as in fee	falah	crow
H, h	'h' as in hit	homih	spicy hot
I, i	'i' as in liter 'i' as in pit	holitopa ibbak	holy, expensive hand
I, i	'in' as in ink	iki	father
K, k	'k' as in key	kofih	quail
L, l	'l' as in low	loksi	turtle
Lh, lh	'thl'	lhiohlih	chase
M, m	'm' as in me	miko	chief, king
N, n	'n' as in no	nosi	sleep
O, o	'o' as in board 'oo' as in hook	ohoyoh chukowah	woman enter
Q, q	'on' as in won't	otokloh	seven
P, p	'p' as in puppy	payah	call
S, s	's' as in sea	siti	snake
Sh, sh	'sh' as in she	shilombish	spirit
T, t	't' as in tip	toshpah	hurry
U, u	'o' as in court 'oo' as in hook	ushi chukka	son house
U, u	'oun' as in wound	chupah	buy
W, w	'w' as in we	weki	heavy, pound
Y, y	'y' as in you	yimmi	believe

* When this sound is followed by another vowel, is sometimes written as 'ay'.

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Choctaw Tribal Language Program
MBCI
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CHAHTA IM ANNOPA HIYOHLI ALHÍHA

The Choctaw Tribal Language Program use all three of the Choctaw Alphabet Systems: **School Alphabet**; **Old Alphabet**; and **Modern Alphabet**. The School Alphabet was developed by BECOM and accepted by the Tribal Council in 1981. However, some tribal members preferred and continued using the *Old* alphabets. Then, BECOM presented a *Compromise Position* - the *Modern* Alphabet. These three systems allow individuals the choice of writing Choctaw in whichever style they choose. "That is the beauty of it.", expressed one Language Staff member. The important thing to remember in Choctaw literacy is that the words are spelled the way they are pronounced. Study the following alphabet systems and use the one you prefer, just make sure your writing is consistent in the system.

MODERN ALPHABET

SCHOOL ALPHABET

OLD ALPHABET

Letter	Pronounced like:	Choctaw	English
A, a	'a' as in father or 'u' as in cup	apah kashti	to eat flea
Á, á	'a' as in pa	ábinili	chair
Ā, ā	'an' as in wand	āchi	quilt
*Ai, ai	'i' as in like	aitatóba	store
B, b	'b' as in bee	bashpo	knife
Ch, ch	'ch' as in cheese	chokfih	rabbit
F, f	'f' as in fee	fichik	star
H, h	'h' as in he	hapih	salt
I, i	'i' as in pit	ibbak	hand
Í, í	'e' as in me	yakóki	thank you
Ī, ī	'in' as in ink	iki	father
K, k	'k' as in key	kittih	mortar
L, l	'l' as in leap	losa	black
Lh, lh	as in 'thl'	lhakkoh	strong
M, m	'm' as in me	mahha	pan
N, n	'n' as in no	nita	bear
O, o	'o' as in woman	ofi	dog
Ó, ó	'o' as in board	ótih	kindle a fire
Ō, ō	'on' as in won't	obah	rain
P, p	'p' as in pea	piti	mouse
S, s	's' as in sea	siti	snake
Sh, sh	'sh' as in she	shokshi	watermelon
T, t	't' as in tea	tachi	corn
W, w	'w' as in we	wák	cow
Y, y	'y' as in you	yolhkon	mole

Letter	Pronounced like:	Chahta	Náhollo
A, a	'a' as in father	apah	to eat
Á, á	'a' as in pa	áčih	say
Ā, ā	'an' as in wand	āči	quilt
B, b	'b' as in bee	bakbak	woodpecker
Č, č	'č' as in cheese	čokfih	rabbit
F, f	'f' as in fee	fíčik	star
H, h	'h' as in he	hapih	salt
I, i	'i' as in pit	ibbak	hand
Í, í	'i' as in liter	šikih	buzzard
Ī, ī	'in' as in ink	iki	father
K, k	'k' as in key	kittih	mortar
L, l	'l' as in leap	losa	black
Ł, ł	as in 'thl'	łakkoh	strong
M, m	'm' as in me	mahha	a pan
N, n	'n' as in no	nita	bear
O, o	'o' as in wolf	ofi	dog
Ó, ó	'o' as in board	hopónih	cook
Ō, ō	'on' as in won't	obah	rain
P, p	'p' as in pea	piti	mouse
S, s	's' as in sea	siti	snake
Š, š	'sh' as in she	šokši	watermelon
T, t	't' as in tea	tachi	corn
W, w	'w' as in we	wák	cow
Y, y	'y' as in yeast	yolkon	mole

Letter	Pronounced	Chahta	Náhollo
A, a	'a' as in father	lawah	many
* u, u	'u' as in cup	kushti	flea
Ā, ā	'an' as in wand	akaka	chicken
Ai, ai	'i' as in pipe	hopaii	prophet
B, b	'b' as in but	bushpo	knife
Ch, ch	'ch' as in chew	chito	big
E, e	'e' as in pea 'e' as in they	apela yakoke	help thank you
F, f	'f' as in fee	falah	crow
H, h	'h' as in hit	homih	spicy hot
I, I	'i' as in pit	ibbak	hand
Ī, ī	'in' as in ink	iki	father
K, k	'k' as in key	Kofi	quail
L, l	'l' as in low	loksi	turtle
Lh, lh	'thl'	lhichlih	chase
M, m	'm' as in me	miko	Chief/king
N, n	'n' as in no	nosi	sleep
O, o	'o' as in board	ohoyoh	woman
Ō, ō	'on' as in won't	otokloh	seven
P, p	'p' as in puppy	payah	call
S, s	's' as in sea	siti	snake
Sh, sh	'sh' as in she	shilombish	spirit
T, t	't' as in tip	toshpah	hurry
U, u	'oo' as in hook	ushi	son
Ū, ū	'oun' as in wound	chupah	buy
W, w	'w' as in we	weki	heavy.
Y, y	'y' as in you	yimmi	believe

* When this sound is followed by another vowel, is sometimes written as 'ay'

* The "u" changed from the "v", which was originally in Byington's alphabet for the sound of "u" in "cup".

CHOCTAW TRIBAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

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CHOCTAW VOWELS AND SOUNDS

(MODERN ALPHABET)

'A' as the 'u' in 'cup'

BA	CHA	FA	HA	KA
LA	LhA	MA	NA	PA
SA	SHA	TA	WA	YA

'Á' as in 'father'

BÁ	CHÁ	FÁ	HÁ	KÁ
LÁ	LhÁ	MÁ	NÁ	PÁ
SÁ	SHÁ	TÁ	WÁ	YÁ

'Ā' As in 'wand'

BĀ	CHĀ	FĀ	HĀ	KĀ
LĀ	LhĀ	MĀ	NĀ	PĀ
SĀ	SHĀ	TĀ	WĀ	YĀ

'I' as in 'pit'

BI	CHI	FI	HI	KI
LI	LhI	MI	NI	PI
SI	SHI	TI	WI	YI

'Í' as the 'e' in 'pea'

BÍ	CHÍ	FÍ	HÍ	KÍ
LÍ	LhÍ	MÍ	NÍ	PÍ
SÍ	SHÍ	TÍ	WÍ	YÍ

'Ī' as in 'ink'

BĪ	CHĪ	FĪ	HĪ	KĪ
LĪ	LhĪ	MĪ	NĪ	PĪ
SĪ	SHĪ	TĪ	WĪ	YĪ

'O' as 'oo' in 'book'

BO	CHO	FO	HO	KO
LO	LhO	MO	NO	PO
SO	SHO	TO	WO	YO

'Ó' as 'oa' in 'board'

BÓ	CHÓ	FÓ	HÓ	KÓ
LÓ	LhÓ	MÓ	NÓ	PÓ
SÓ	SHÓ	TÓ	WÓ	YÓ

'Ō' as in 'won't'

BŌ	CHŌ	FŌ	HŌ	KŌ
LŌ	LhŌ	MŌ	NŌ	PŌ
SŌ	SHŌ	TŌ	WŌ	YŌ

(SCHOOL ALPHABET)

'A' as the 'u' in 'cup'

BA	ČA	FA	HA	KA
LA	ŁA	MA	NA	PA
SA	ŠA	TA	WA	YA

'Á' as in 'father'

BÁ	ČÁ	FÁ	HÁ	KÁ
LÁ	ŁÁ	MÁ	NÁ	PÁ
SÁ	ŠÁ	TÁ	WÁ	YÁ

'Ā' As in 'wand'

BĀ	ČĀ	FĀ	HĀ	KĀ
LĀ	ŁĀ	MĀ	NĀ	PĀ
SĀ	ŠĀ	TĀ	WĀ	YĀ

'I' as in 'pit'

BI	ČI	FI	HI	KI
LI	ŁI	MI	NI	PI
SI	ŠI	TI	WI	YI

'Í' as the 'e' in 'pea'

BÍ	ČÍ	FÍ	HÍ	KÍ
LÍ	ŁÍ	MÍ	NÍ	PÍ
SÍ	ŠÍ	TÍ	WÍ	YÍ

'Ī' as in 'ink'

BĪ	ČĪ	FĪ	HĪ	KĪ
LĪ	ŁĪ	MĪ	NĪ	PĪ
SĪ	ŠĪ	TĪ	WĪ	YĪ

'O' as 'oo' in 'book'

BO	ČO	FO	HO	KO
LO	ŁO	MO	NO	PO
SO	ŠO	TO	WO	YO

'Ó' as 'oa' in 'board'

BÓ	ČÓ	FÓ	HÓ	KÓ
LÓ	ŁÓ	MÓ	NÓ	PÓ
SÓ	ŠÓ	TÓ	WÓ	YÓ

'Ō' as in 'won't'

BŌ	ČŌ	FŌ	HŌ	KŌ
LŌ	ŁŌ	MŌ	NŌ	PŌ
SŌ	ŠŌ	TŌ	WŌ	YŌ

(OLD ALPHABET)

'U' OR 'V' as in 'cup'

BU	CHU	FU	HU	KU
LU	LhU	MU	NU	PU
SU	SHU	TU	WU	YU

'A' as in 'father'

BA	CHA	FA	HA	KA
LA	LhA	MA	NA	PA
SA	SHA	TA	WA	YA

'Ā' As in 'wand'

BĀ	CHĀ	FĀ	HĀ	KĀ
LĀ	LhĀ	MĀ	NĀ	PĀ
SĀ	SHĀ	TĀ	WĀ	YĀ

'I' as in 'pit'

BI	CHI	FI	HI	KI
LI	LhI	MI	NI	PI
SI	SHI	TI	WI	YI

'E' as in 'pea' or 'they'

BE	CHE	FE	HE	KE
LE	LhE	ME	NE	PE
SE	SHE	TE	WE	YE

'Ī' as in 'ink'

BĪ	CHĪ	FĪ	HĪ	KĪ
LĪ	LhĪ	MĪ	NĪ	PĪ
SĪ	SHĪ	TĪ	WĪ	YĪ

'U' as 'oo' in 'book'

BU	CHU	FU	HU	KU
LU	LhU	MU	NU	PU
SU	SHU	TU	WU	YU

'O' as 'oa' in 'board'

BO	CHO	FO	HO	KO
LO	LhO	MO	NO	PO
SO	SHO	TO	WO	YO

'Ō' as in 'won't'

BŌ/BU	ChŌ/ChU	FŌ/FU	HŌ/HU	KŌ/KU
LŌ/LU	LhŌ/LhU	MŌ/MU	NŌ/NU	PŌ/PU
SŌ/SU	ShŌ/ShU	TŌ/TU	WŌ/WU	YŌ/YU

MODERN CHOCTAW LANGUAGE ALPHABET

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A, a	'a' as in father or 'u' as in cup	apah kashti	to eat flea
Á, á	'a' as in pa	ábiníli	chair
A, a	'an' as in wand	achi	quilt
*Ai, ai	'i' as in like	aitatóba	store
B, b	'b' as in bee	bashpo	knife
Ch, ch	'ch' as in cheese	chokfih	rabbit
F, f	'f' as in fee	fichik	star
H, h	'h' as in he	hapih	salt
I, i	'i' as in pit	ibbak	hand
Í, í	'e' as in me	yakóki	thank you
I, i	'in' as in ink	iki	father
K, k	'k' as in key	kittih	mortar
L, l	'l' as in leap	losa	black
Lh, lh	as in 'thl'	lhakkoh	strong
M, m	'm' as in me	mahha	pan
N, n	'n' as in no	nita	bear
O, o	'o' as in woman	ofi	dog
Ó, ó	'o' as in board	ótih	kindle a fire
O, o	'on' as in won't	obah	rain
P, p	'p' as in pea	piti	mouse
S, s	's' as in sea	siti	snake
Sh, sh	'sh' as in she	shokshi	watermelon
T, t	't' as in tea	tachi	corn
W, w	'w' as in we	wák	cow
Y, y	'y' as in you	yolhkon	mole

When this sound is followed by another vowel, is sometimes written as 'ay'

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL ALPHABET

Letter	Pronounced like:	Chahta	Náhollo
A, a	'a' as in father	apah	to eat
Á, á	'a' as in pa	áčih	say
Ȧ, ȧ	'an' as in wand	ȧči	quilt
B, b	'b' as in bee	bakbak	woodpecker
Č, č	'č' as in cheese	čokfih	rabbit
F, f	'f' as in fee	fičik	star
H, h	'h' as in he	hapih	salt
I, i	'i' as in it	ibbak	hand
Í, í	'i' as in liter	šíkih	buzzard
Ĭ, ĭ	'in' as in ink	ĭki	father
K, k	'k' as in key	kittih	mortar
L, l	'l' as in leap	losa	black
Ł, ł	as in 'thl'	łakkoh	strong
M, m	'm' as in me	mahha	a pan
N, n	'n' as in no	nita	bear
O, o	'o' as in wolf	ofi	dog
Ó, ó	'o' as in board	hopónih	cook
Q, q	'on' as in won't	q̣bah	rain
P, p	'p' as in pea	p̣ti	mouse
S, s	's' as in sea	ṣti	snake
Š, š	'sh' as in she	šokši	watermelon
T, t	't' as in tea	ṭči	corn
W, w	'w' as in we	wák	cow
Y, y	'y' as in yeast	yoḷkon	mole

Note: This alphabet system was approved by the Tribal Council, in 1981, to use in the school system.

OLD CHOCTAW ALPHABET

Letter	Pronounced	Chahta	Náhollo
A, a	'a' as in father	lawah	many
* <u>U, u</u>	'u' as in cup	kushti	flea
A, <u>a</u>	'an' as in wand	akaka	chicken
Ai, ai	'i' as in pipe	hopaii	prophet
B, b	'b' as in but	bushpo	knife
Ch, ch	'ch' as in chew	chito	big
E, e	'e' as in pea 'e' as in they	apela yakoke	help thank you
F, f	'f' as in fee	falah	crow
H, h	'h' as in hit	homih	spicy hot
I, I	'i' as in pit	ibbak	hand
<u>I, i</u>	'in' as in ink	iki	father
K, k	'k' as in key	Kofi	quail
L, l	'l' as in low	loksi	turtle
Lh, lh	' <i>thl</i> '	lhiohlih	chase
M, m	'm' as in me	miko	Chief/king
N, n	'n' as in no	nosi	sleep
O, o	'o' as in board	ohoyoh	woman
<u>O, o</u>	'on' as in won't	otokloh	seven
P, p	'p' as in puppy	payah	call
S, s	's' as in sea	siti	snake
Sh, sh	'sh' as in she	shilombish	spirit
T, t	't' as in tip	toshpah	hurry
U, u	'oo' as in hook	ushi	son
<u>U, u</u>	'oun' as in wound	chupah	buy
W, w	'w' as in we	weki	heavy,
Y, y	'y' as in you	yimmi	believe

* The "u" changed from the "v", which was originally in Byington's alphabet for the sound in "cup".