

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) translation of Paiute Alphabet Song

a tʃa u ha i ka kwa

ma noʊ naɡʰ oʊ pɒm rɒ sɒ

to-to tʃɒ-tʃɒ u-u vɒ

wa-wa ha-ha kwʌ-kwʌ jæ

aβ nu po on-ump pəʃf utʃ-u wɑɪ

nuŋ wə pɒ-ɔ nʰu tuvɪtsi su-wɑɪ

IPA symbols	Example	Transcribed letters
ɑ	<u>a</u> ll, short vowel	a
ɒ	s <u>a</u> w, long vowel	aw
æ	b <u>a</u> t / h <u>a</u> t	ah
ɑɪ	<u>a</u> isle / p <u>i</u> le	ai
ɛɪ	p <u>a</u> y / h <u>a</u> y	ay
ɔ	half long “a” + half long “o” diphthong	ao
i or ə	<u>e</u> vent, half long	e
ɛ	b <u>e</u> t / l <u>e</u> t	eh
i	<u>ee</u> / <u>be</u> et, long vowel	ee
ɪ	b <u>i</u> t / <u>i</u> ll	i
ɪ	like “i” but longer in the final position	ih
o, oʊ	<u>o</u> bey, half long	o
oʊ	g <u>o</u> , long vowel	oh
u	<u>coo</u> / <u>sue</u> , with 2 the second is long	oo
ɔɪ	b <u>oy</u> , diphthong	oy
ɑʊ	<u>cow</u> , diphthong (<u>hou</u> se)	ow
ɔ	similar to <u>oar</u> , (not in English)	oa
ʌ	<u>u</u> p	u
ʊ	<u>loo</u> k / <u>coo</u> k, with 2 the second is long	uh
i	se` <u>ee</u> , diphthong	e-ee
	o- <u>oh</u> m, diphthong	o-oh
	o- <u>aw</u> `kawd, diphthong	o-aw

	oo-oo`noovuv, diphthong	oo-oo
	kuh-uk (with hyphen to differentiate between uhu), diphthong	uh-u
	uh`-uhng, diphthong	uh-uh
au	distinguish "oo" and "w," diphthong	o-ow
d	<u>d</u> og, beginning of word	d
ɖ	within a word, trilled	d
r	more rolled, (middle?)	dd
b	sounds like "v," bit of both within a word	b
g ^h	go, often replaced with "h"	g
g	coarse, rasping approaching "k"	gh
dʒ	<u>j</u> ump	j
k	<u>k</u> ing, beginning of word	k
k ^h	coarse, rasping "k" combined with "h" (not in English)	kh
ɸ / p	<u>p</u> ut, occasionally replaced with "v"	p
kwə	<u>q</u> ueen, sometimes replaced with coarse "w"	kw
s	<u>s</u> ee / <u>i</u> ce	s
ts	<u>t</u> s	ts
tʃ	<u>m</u> atch / <u>c</u> heck	ch (or) tch
td	combination of "t" and "d" sounds (not in English)	td
ŋ	<u>k</u> ing	ng
w	"w" is unvoiced after the accent at the end of a word	-k`w , -ng`w
v	<u>v</u> ictor / <u>l</u> ove, sometimes interchanged with "b"	v
β	"v" and "b" together (not in English)	vb
wa	<u>w</u> alk	w
z	<u>w</u> hiz	z

The Paiute language does not use the sounds “r” and “l.” Specific tribes (divided mostly by location) may sometimes use “l,” “f,” or “z,” but they are not common in the core Paiute language.

hyphens (-) separate adjacent vowels and diphthongs. Long vowels marked with an accent (´). Hard glottal stop marked with an apostrophe (‘)

Drawn from “Key to Pronunciation” in Martineau, LaVan. *The Southern Paiutes: Legends, Lore, Language, and Lineage*. Las Vegas, NV: KC Publications, 1992.