Draft LAKOTA SOUNDS Draft

Unlike the twenty-six (26) alphabets used in the English language, there are twenty (20) in the Lakota language. Out of the 20 alphabets, there are certain sounds associated with some of the letters, such as in C,H,K,P,S, and T, as shown in the chart below.

Lakota sounds include the gutteral (a sound made in your throat as that of a growl) sounds, as indicated by the "dot" over the letter in G,H,K,P, and T. The gutteral sound of these letters often are difficult for new learners and must be practiced until the sound is mastered. Making these sounds are natural for those already speaking the language; it is rather easy for children to say or make these sounds.

The vowels are: **a e i (ee) o u (oo) a (changeable a)** a sound between a and e, for example, as in "m**a**n, **a**sh" This "**a**" sound is heard among female speakers, the sound "**aw**" included in the chart is be heard mostly among male speakers, however, a few **a** and **aw** are common in both gender speaking.

The nasal sounds are: **an in un** however, the "**on**" spelling is sometimes used for the "un" sound.

The glottal stop, as indicated by an apostrophe (**'**) after the alphabets **H'**, **K'**, **P' S'**, and **T'** have a sudden stop, followed by a vowel or nasal vowel. Again, it takes practice to master this sound.

The letter **C** is always pronounced as a "**ch**" sound. There is a mixture of **S** sounds **(s, s(h), s',** and **s(h)')** as indicated below in the grid.

	A	**E**	**I**	**O**	**U**	**AN**	**IN**	**UN**	**A**	**AW**
A			a i	a o	a u			a un		
B		be	bi		bu					
B	ab	eb	ib	ob	ub	anb	inb	unb		
BL	bla	ble	bli	blo	blu				bla	
C (ch)	ca	ce	ci	co	cu	can	cin	cun		
Glottal stop C'	c'a	c'e	c'i	c'o	c'u		c'in	c'un		
E		e e								
G	ag	eg	ig	og	ug					
Gutteral G	ga	ge	gi	go	gu	gan	gin		ga	gaw
GL	gla	gle	gli	glo	glu				gla	glaw
GM	gma	gme	gmi		gmu	gman	gmin	gmun		
GN	gna		gni		gnu	gnan	gnin	gnun	gna	
GW	gwa	gwe								
H	ha	he	hi	ho	hu	han	hin	hun	ha	haw

Gutteral H	ha	he	hi	ho	hu	han	hin	hun		haw
Gutteral/glottal stop H'	h'a	h'e	h'i			h'an		h'un	h'an	h'awn
Gutteral HC (ch)	hca	hce	hci	hco					hca	hcaw
Gutteral HL	hla	hle	hli	hlo					hla	hlaw
Gutteral HM	hma	hme	hmi		hmu	hman	hmin	hmun	hma	hmaw
Gutteral HN	hna		hni			hnan				
Gutteral HP	hpa	hpe	hpi		hpu	hpan	hpin		hpa	hpaw
Gutteral HT	hta	hte				htan			hta	
Gutteral HW	hwa		hwo							
HW		hwe	hwo						hwa	
I = ee				i o						
J	ja	je	ji	jo	ju	jan	jin	jun	ja	jaw
K	ka	ke	ki	ko	ku	kan	kin	kun		
Glottal Stop K'	k'a	k'e		k'o	k'u		k'in	k'un		
Gutteral K	ka	ke		ko		kan	kin	kun	ka	kaw
KC	kca	kce	kci	kco	kcu	kcan	kcin		kca	kcaw
KP	kpa	kpe	kpi			kpan	kpin			
KS	ksa	kse	ksi		ksu		ksin		ksa	ksaw
KS (sh)	ksa	kse	ksi		ksu	ksan				
KT	kta	kte		kto		ktan		ktun	kta	ktaw
L	la	le	li	lo	lu				la	law
M	ma	me	mi		mu	man	min	mun	ma	
MN	mna		mni		mnu	mnan	mnin	mnun	mna	mnaw
N	na		ni		nu	nan	nin	nun	na	
O	o a	o e	o i	o o		o an	o in	o un		
P	pa	pe	pi	po	pu	pan	pin	pun	pa	
Gutteral P	pa	pe		po		pan	pin	pun	pa	paw
Glottal stop P'		p'e		p'o			p'in			
PS	psa	pse	psi				psin	psun		
PS (sh)	psa		psi	pso			psin	psun		
PT	pta	pte			ptu	ptan	ptin		ptan	ptaw

S	sa	se	si	so	su	san	sin	sun		
S (sh)	sa	se	si	so	su	san	sin	sun		
Glottal stop S'	s'a	s'e	s'i	s'o			s'in			
Glottal stop (sh) **S'**	s'a	s'e		s'o			s'in			
SC			sci		scu					
(sh) **SC**		sce								
SK	ska	ske	ski		sku	skan			ska	
(sh) **SK**	ska	ske	ski	sko	sku	skan	skin		skan	skawn
(sh) **SK (gutteral)**	ska									
SL	sla	sle	sli	slo	slu				sla	
(sh) **SL**	sla	sle	sli	slo	slu				sla	slaw
SM	sma		smi							
(sh) **SM**	sma	sme	smi			sman	smin			
SN	sna		sni			snan				
(sh) **SN**	sna		sni			snan			sna	snaw
SP	spa	spe							spa	spaw
(sh) **SP**	spa	spe	spi		spu	span			spa	spaw
ST	sta			sto		stan				
(sh) **ST**	sta	ste			stu	stan	stin	stun	stan	stawn
SW	swa	swe			swu					
T	ta	te	ti	to	tu	tan	tin	tun	ta	taw
Gutteral T	ta	te		to			tin	tun	ta	taw
Glottal stop T'	t'a	t'e		t'o			t'in	t'un	t'a	t'aw
TK	tka	tke		tko	tku	tkan	tkin	tkun	tkan	tkawn
TK (gutteral K)	tka									
U = oo										
W	wa	we	wi	wo		wan	win		wa	
Y	ya	ye	yi	yo	yu	yan	yin	yun	ya	yaw
Z	za	ze	zi	zo	zu	zan	zin	zun	za	zaw

Karen White Butterfly/Jan2015, Updated 6/16/20

Note to self: 1) "Aw" sound by male speakers
2) Diacritic mark for the "Sh" sound
3) A mark for the changeable "a"

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