

**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 guttural (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 guttural 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 “man, ash” This “a” sound is heard among female speakers, the sound “aw” included in the chart is 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.

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

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

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