

Vowels

Woodland Cree (Y Dialect) uses four vowels to make the four long vowel sounds and three short vowel sounds.

Short Vowels: a, i, and o

A. a is pronounced as the u in the word putt

- I. astam come here
- II. awas go away
- III. api sit down
- IV. ôta here (locative)
- V. ana that one (animate)
- VI. nâta go get it (inanimate)

B. i is pronounced as the i in pin

- I. iskotîw fire
- II. pisiw lynx
- III. kinosîw fish
- IV. iskwîsis girl
- V. nipâ sleep (imp.)
- VI. pîsim sun

C. o is pronounced as the o in nook

- I. okimâw leader
- II. otina take it (inan.)
- III. mîciso eat (imp.)
- IV. poko it is a must
- V. pipon winter
- VI. postiska put it on (inanimate)

Long Vowels: a, î, ô, and e. (ê)

Long vowels are written with a circumflex ^ above the vowel.

A. â is pronounced as the a in *absent*

- I. âmô bee
- II. nâpîsîs boy
- III. âskaw sometimes
- IV. âpihtaw in the centre (locative)
- V. mitâtaht ten
- VI. mitâs pants

B. î is pronounced as the i in *machine*

- I. îsis seashell
- II. mînîsa berries
- III. kîsik sky
- IV. tîpakohp seven
- V. pîtâ bring it (inanimate)
- VI. pîhpihciw robin

C. ô is pronounced as o sound in *mood*

- I. ôsi boat
- II. ôhô owl
- III. môswa moose
- IV. minôs cat
- V. pôâtâcikanîs whistle
- VI. pôna make a fire (imp.)

D. e is pronounced as the e in *café*. This letter is not used in Woodland

Cree of Northern Alberta but is included as it is used in the Plains Cree Language.

- I. ekosi there; so then... (ay-ko-si)
- II. tâpwe truly, really (tâ-pway)
- III. peyak one (pay-ak)

