

INUKTITUT

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCES

SYLLABICS – ROMAN-SCRIPT

Inuit Cultural Institute 1976
BGN/PCGN 2013 Agreement

In 1976 the Inuit Cultural Institute (Arviat, Nunavut) approved that Inuktitut syllabics (as presented below) would be official alongside Roman script for all Inuktitut dialects. Use of Inuktitut syllabics (*qaniujaaqpait*) for geographic names is official only in Nunavut, Canada.

		p	t	k	g	m	n	s/h ¹	h ²	l	j	v	r	q	ng ³	t ⁴	š ⁵	ř ⁶	
i	Δ	∧	∩	ρ	ƀ	Γ	σ	ʀ	ʁ	⊃	⤴	Δ	⊂	ϣ	ϣ	⊂	ʁ	⤴	
u	▷	>	⊃	ɔ	J	⊂	⊖	ʀ	ʁ	⊂	⤴	>	ρ	ϣ	ϣ	⊂	ʁ	⤴	
a	◁	<	⊂	b	⊂	L	⊖	ʀ	ʁ	⊂	⤴	<	ϣ	ϣ	⊂	ʁ	⤴		
<i>naaniit</i> ⁷ (finals)		< ⁸	⊂	⊂	⊂	L	⊖	ʀ	ʁ	⊂	⤴	<	ϣ	ϣ	⊂	ʁ	⤴		H ¹⁰
		-p	-t	-k	-g	-m	-n	-s/h	-h	-l	-j	-v	-r	-q	-ng	-t		-ř	h

¹ Pronounced as 's' in eastern dialects; 'h' in Kivalliq and Qitirmiut dialects

² The barred 's' (so-called because the syllabic symbol used for 's' is barred) is pronounced like 'h' and is used in the Nattilingmiutut dialect

³ Considered a single consonant; romanized as ŋ in Nattilingmiutut dialect

⁴ Some tables present as 'lh'; Unicode encoding for t is U+0142

⁵ Used in Nattilingmiutut dialect; pronounced as 'shr'; Unicode encoding for š is U+0161

⁶ Used in Nattilingmiutut dialect; pronounced as a reflexive 'r'; Unicode encoding for ř is U+0159

⁷ *Naaniit* (Finals) are superscript forms of the consonant+a form, and denote syllable-finals (e.g. Δ.⊖ = Inuk ('person')). A final followed by a consonant-initial syllable is the sole occurrence of a consonant cluster in Inuktitut.

⁸ < is also used to represent 'b' by some dialects. It is always followed by another consonant, usually 'l' (and see Note 4 on assimilation)

⁹ 'š' never occurs as a final

¹⁰ In syllabics, the Roman letter H is inserted for certain words borrowed from English

Notes

1. A lengthened vowel sound is represented by a dot placed above the syllabic character. When romanized, these sounds are represented by double vowels.

Example: ᐃᐅᐅ̇ᑦ Naujaat (Repulse Bay)

2. Generally, no more than two vowels can appear in a row. One notable exception is the use of (uai) in the North Qikiqtani dialect.
3. Some western dialects use a glottal stop, which is represented by an inverted apostrophe (‘ - Unicode encoding 2018) in both syllabics and in Roman characters.
4. Consonants in Inuktitut can be divided into three categories: nasal, voiced, and voiceless.
In standardized Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun, when two consonants appear together they must be from the same category. If they are not, normally the first consonant (i.e. the preceding syllable-final) changes to match the one it appears next to in a process called assimilation.

Nasal: ᑭ (m), ᑎ (n), ᑎᑭ (ng)

Voiced: ᖃ (v), ᖅ (l), ᖄ (j), ᖅ (g), ᖅ (r)

Voiceless: ᖅ (p), ᖅ (t), ᖅ (k), ᖅᖅ (q), ᖅ (s/h)

Example: ᐃᐃᐅᐅᑦ + ᑭ = ᐃᐃᐅᐅᑦᑭ Nunavut + mi = Nunavummi

5. The sound represented by ᖅ (ri), ᖅ (ru), and ᖅ (ra) is very close to ᖅᖅ (qi), ᖅᖅ (qu), and ᖅᖅ (qa). The characters are used as follows:
q is used before voiceless consonants
r is used before nasal and voiced consonants

6. The table below presents word position for Inuktitut sounds

Word-initial	Word-medial only	Word-final
ᐃ i ᐅ u ᐅ a	ᑭ gi ᑭ gu ᑭ ga	ᐃ pi ᐅ pu ᐅ pa
ᐃ pi ᐅ pu ᐅ pa	ᖅ li ᖅ lu ᖅ la	ᖅ ti ᖅ tu ᖅ ta
ᖅ ti ᖅ tu ᖅ ta	ᖅᖅ ji ᖅᖅ ju ᖅᖅ ja	ᖅᖅ ki ᖅᖅ ku ᖅᖅ ka
ᖅᖅ ki ᖅᖅ ku ᖅᖅ ka	ᖅᖅ vi ᖅᖅ vu ᖅᖅ va	ᖅᖅᖅ qi ᖅᖅᖅ qu ᖅᖅᖅ qa
ᑭ mi ᑭ mu ᑭ ma	ᖅ ri ᖅ ru ᖅ ra	
ᖅ ni ᖅ nu ᖅ na	ᖅ li ᖅ lu ᖅ la	
ᖅ si/hi ᖅ su/hu ᖅ sa/ha	ᖅᖅᖅ ngi ᖅᖅᖅ ngu ᖅᖅᖅ nga	
ᖅᖅᖅ qi ᖅᖅᖅ qu ᖅᖅᖅ qa		

7. The Roman-script columns show only lowercase forms but, when applying the table, uppercase and lowercase Roman letters as appropriate should be used.