

Pawnee Alphabet

Vowels (South Band or SB: 8 & Skiri: 6)

a, aa, (e, ee), i, ii, u, uu (‘e,’ ‘ee’ are SB sounds)

Sound	as in English	English equivalent	Pawnee example	English translation
a	“a” in	a bove	a sku’	‘one’
â	“a” in	f a ther	P â ri’	‘Pawnee’
e	“e” in	p e t	e tkîcu’	‘milk’
ê	“a” in	fianc é	r ê sâru’	‘chief’
i	“i” in	p i t	p i tku	‘two’
î	“i” in	mach i ne	p î ta	‘man’
u	“oo” in	r oo t	u tkasis	‘quail’
û	“u” in	r u de	û su’	‘hair’

Consonants

p, t, k, č, c, s, h, r, w, ’

Sound	as in English	English equivalent	Pawnee example	English translation
p	as in	spot	pîta	‘man’
t	as in	stop	tawit	‘three’
k	as in	skate	kâtît	‘black’
č	as in	catch	čačiks	‘spider’
c	as in	cats	ic	‘potato(es)’
s	as in	sit	sakûru’	‘sun, day’
h	as in	hit	pahuru’	‘owl’
r	as in	butter	rîsâru’	‘chief’
w	as in	wall	wis	‘hurry’
’	as in	uh-oh	âka’a	‘oh, my, oh my’

Lesson 1 (asku’): Basic Greetings

Questions/Statements	Responses
Čikstit karaspari? (SB) or Čikstit karasku? (SK)	1. Âhu’, čikstit tatpari. (SB) or Hâ’u’, čikstit tatku. (SK) 2. Kâkî’, čikstit kâkatpari. (SB) Kâkî’, čikstit kâkatku. (SK)
Kirike răsasa’? (SB) or Kikî (or Kirikî) răsasa’? (SK)	1. Tâtasa’ _____.
Kirike răsakitâ? (SB) or Kikî (or Kirikî) răsakitâ? (SK)	1. Tâtakitâ _____. 2. _____ tat.

New Nouns

Nouns: Tribal Names and/or Band Names		
Skiri	South Band	English Name
Pâri	Pâri	Pawnee
Cahiksicahiks	Cahriksicahriks	Pawnee, Indian
Ckiri	Ckîri	Skidi
Čawî	Čawî	Chawi, Chaui
Kitkahâhki	Kitkehahki	Kitkehahki, Kitkahahki
Pîtahâwirâta	Pîtahawirâta	Pitahawirata

Nouns: Additional Tribal Names		
Skiri	South Band	English
Pasûhara	Pasûhara	Otoe
Pahkuta	Pahkuta	Ioway
Pasâsi	Pasâsi'	Osage
Rîhita	Rîhita	Ponca
Arahu'	Arahu'	Kaw
Tarikawa	Tarikawa	Tonkawa
Sâkîwa	Sâkîwa	Sac & Fox
Kirikuruks	Kirikûruks	Wichita
Asûrit	Asûrit	Caddo
Ka'iwa	Ka'iwa	Kiowa
Rârihtâ'	Rârihta'	Comanche
Sahi	Sahe	Cheyenne
Sari'itihka	Sari'itihka	Arapaho
Cahikspahat	Cahrikspahat	Five Civilized Tribes
cahiksûpîru'	cahriksûpîru'	alien tribe, stranger

New Sentences

Nawa, čikstit karaspari? (SB)
Nawa, čikstit karasku? (SK)

Are you well?/Are you going about well?
Are you well?/Are you sitting well?

Âhu', čikstit tatpari. (SB)
Haa'u', čikstit tatku. (SK)

Yes, I am well./Yes, I'm going about well.
Yes, I am well./Yes, I'm sitting well.

Čikstit kâkatpari. (SB)
Čikstit kâkatku. (SK)

I'm not well./I'm not going about well.
I'm not well./I'm not sitting well.

Kirike râsasa'? (SB)
Kikî (or Kirikî) râsasa'? (SK)

What is your name?/What are you called?
What is your name?/What are you called?

Tâtasa' _____.

My name is _____./I am called/named _____.

Kirike râsakitâ?

What tribe/band are you?/What is your tribe?

Kikî (or Kirikî) râsakitâ?

What tribe/band are you?/What is your tribe?

Tâtakitâ _____.

I am _____./My tribe/band is _____.

_____ tat.

I am _____.

Useful Phrases

Kustuci'êrit. (SB)

I'll see you (later)./I will be seeing you.

Kustuci'îrit. (SK)

I'll see you (later)./I will be seeing you.

Kâkatirâ'îta.

I don't know.

Grammatical Notes

ka-

Yes/No question marker

čikstit

well / fine

Âhu' (SB), Hâ'u' (SK)

Yes, acknowledgement

Kirike (SB), Kirikî/Kikî (SK)

What question marker

ta-/tâ-

Used when making a statement

kâka-

Negative marker (replaces ta-/tâ-)

ra-/râ-

Used when asking a question

-t-

I

-s-

you

Conversational Practice

Pick a partner to practice the following phrases. Ask and answer these questions and responses in Pawnee.

Speaker 1: Are you well?

Speaker 2: Yes, I'm well. or No, I'm not well.

Speaker 1: Acknowledge other speaker.

Speaker 1: What is your name?

Speaker 2: My name is _____.

Speaker 1: Acknowledge other speaker.

Speaker 1: What is your tribe/band?

Speaker 2: My tribe/band is _____. or I am _____.

Speaker 1: Acknowledge other speaker.