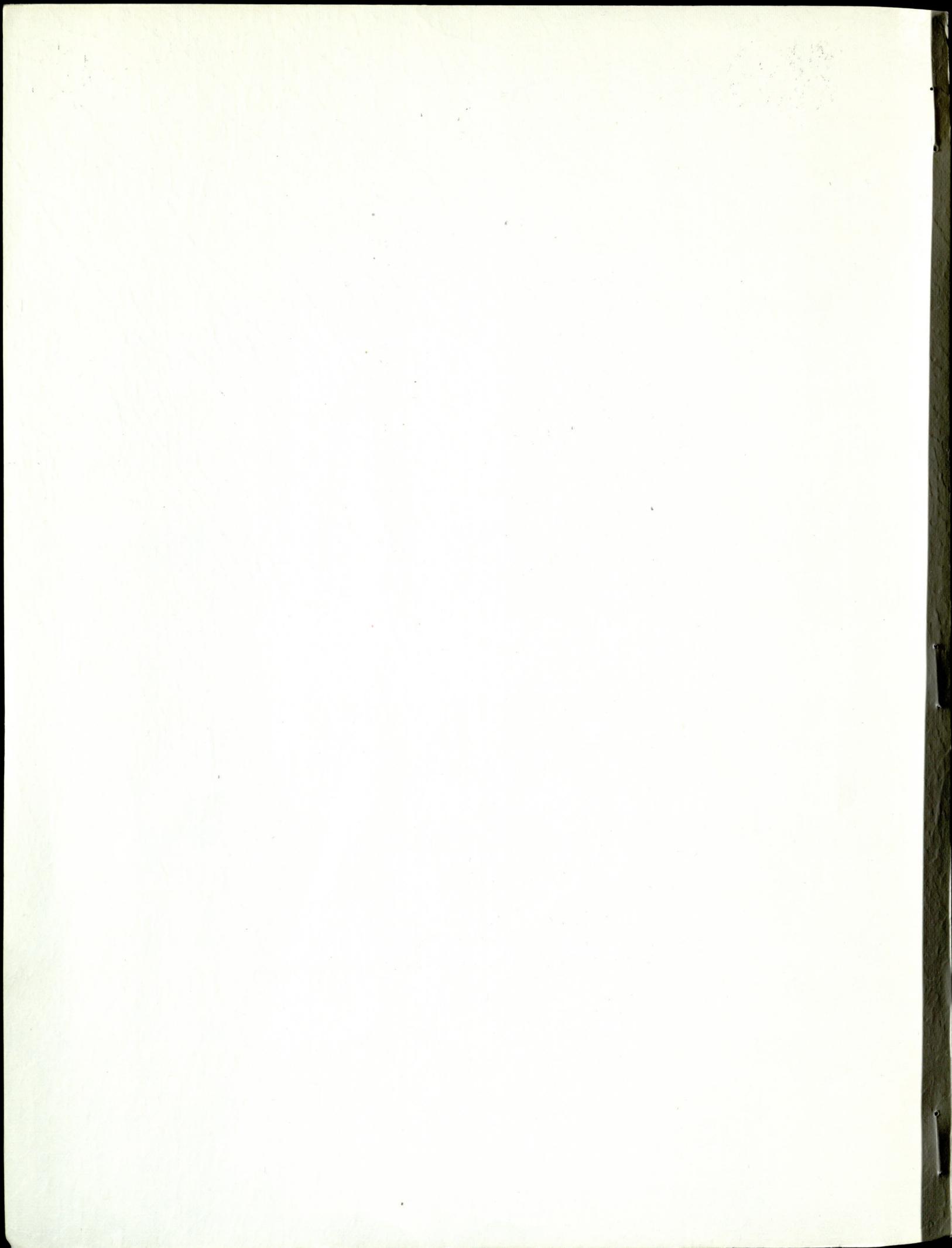


TLINGIT SPELLING BOOK







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TLINGIT SPELLING BOOK

Edited by

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Published by

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Alaska Native Language Center

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The revised draft was field tested at the 4th annual Tlingit language workshop at Sheldon Jackson College, June 1974.

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Introduction

This is a mini-primer for Tlingit literacy. Let's look at these words:

1. Literacy: This book is not for teaching the Tlingit language to non speakers. It is designed to help native speakers learn to read and write.
2. Primer: This book is for beginning readers.
3. Mini: This book is designed to be a minimal outline. In most cases, only one page is given to each letter.

A set of more detailed reading books is being composed by Jeff Leer and Constance Naish. Both texts will eventually be used: the mini-primer to give a fast introduction to the letters, and the Leer-Naish readers to give additional graded ready practice and self tests.

Also, an elementary alphabet book is being composed by Henry Davis.

"Spell it like it sounds": English and Tlingit

People ask, "Why not spell it like it sounds? Why not spell the Tlingit word for 'money' like the girl's name 'Donna'?"

Let's look at Donna. Take the letter o and look at these words:

hot
ton
off
no
who
woman
women

In English the one letter o can have at least seven different sounds. Only one word "hot"—sounds like "Donna" but that also sounds like "a" in father. Some words like Polish and polish are spelled alike but sound different.

This happens all the time in English. It isn't hard to show how poor the English writing system is. But it's fun so let's look at more examples:

Here we have six different spellings for one sound.

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| 1) no | 4) boat |
| 2) toe | 5) sew |
| 3) dough | 6) bow |

#6 can also rhyme with "now."

English has one letter for many sounds. Also the same sound may have many spellings.

Let's take the ough spelling in

bough
rough
through
cough
dough
hiccough

or the same sound as spelled differently in

sue
toot
tune
thru
who
fruit

and the homonyms do and due. Other homonyms are beech/beach, feet/feat, flower/flour,

oo can be good or food
u can be up, bush, thru
a can be father, America, hat, nation

up, was, nation sound alike but are spelled differently,

key, ski, me, fee, and quay sound alike but are spelled differently.

English spelling is a mess. That's why we don't "spell it like it sounds" according to English.

But the Tlingit writing system is better. Each letter has only one sound, and each sound has only one letter. One letter = one sound.

Format and Plan

These lessons introduce each letter of the Tlingit alphabet one at a time.

No letters are used unless they have already been introduced. Each page tries to focus on one new letter.

Directions

This primer may be used for self study or for group study with a teacher.

If a teacher is in charge, he or she should dictate the nonsense syllable 10 times, or until the sound is mastered, then dictate the real words. In cases of contrast, the teacher should dictate one sound, then the other, then a random selection. Students should write the nonsense word. If all students are at a blackboard, the teacher can see how well they spell.

If you are studying alone, ignore the nonsense syllables. Study the real words.

After studying the words, cover up the Tlingit with a blank piece of paper and write the first word. Check it. If it is right, go ahead. If it is wrong, correct it and repeat the self test.

By covering up and testing yourself, you can go ahead as fast or slow as you wish.

Teachers may prefer to have students read the words before spelling.

Dialects

All dialects can be written. If your pronunciation is different, spell as you pronounce. WE MUST AGREE ON THE LETTERS, but need not agree on pronunciation. Some people say wéi hít and others say wé hít. Where northern Tlingit has e and ei, southern tends to have i and ee: du déx', ch'eix' and du díx' and ch'eex'.

Uses

This primer is for helping native speakers to spell.

It can be used to help in teaching Tlingit spelling to non speaking students. Two uses are: sound discrimination and spelling dictation.

For sound discrimination the teacher can list two or three similar words on ditto sheets such as:

tíx tíx' tík

and then pronounce one of them. Students circle the correct word. This helps test for ability to distinguish similar sounds.

The words in the primer are more or less arranged in order of difficulty for native speakers to spell and non-speakers to learn. Therefore, it can be used for spelling practice for non-speakers. Remember not to confuse the learning and teaching problems of teaching native speakers to spell and non speakers to make the sounds.

GAMES AND SPICE

For teaching native speakers literacy and non-speakers spelling many English games can be adopted.

For example: Tlingit Scrabble
 Tlingit crossword puzzles
 "hangman"

A "spice" to add to language classes would be trying to spell Tlingit sound effects, such as "splash" "crunch" "zoom"
"bumpity-bump."

A

Short A as in English was, America

1. Nonsense dictation: Write ka ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Real words using the vowel A and consonants similar to English.

1	á	it
2	tás	thread
3	Ná!	Take it!
4	áyá	this is
5	Á áyá.	This is it.
6	kagán	light
7	hás	them
8	hán	he's standing
9	Akát hán.	He's standing on it.
10	gán	firewood
11	Natá	Go to sleep!
12	Tás áyá.	This is thread.

Did you spell all words correctly? If so, go ahead. If not, try the list over again.

TONE. Did you notice the ´ mark above some words? Read the "Sound Supplement" on tone. Listen to your voice on words such as kagán. Where your voice is high, the ´ mark pointing up is used to indicate that the word is high or that the syllable is higher than the rest of the word. When a word is low, no tone mark is written.

AA

The long AA as in English father, hot, Saab (Swedish car)

IMPORTANT: all long sounds in Tlingit are written with two letters.

1. Nonsense dictation: Write kaa ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Real words.

1	aan	town
2	taan	sea lion
3	aas	tree
4	shaa	mountain
5	sháa	women
6	káast	barrel
7	naa	tribe; moiety
8	dáa	weasel
9	dáanaa	money
10	haa káak	our maternal uncle
11	Kaagwaantaan	(Eagle moiety clan in Sitka and elsewhere)
12	saak	hooligan
13	áa	lake

REVIEW OF A AND AA

If you still have trouble with AA, review.

Short = one letter = A
Long = two letters = AA

1. Nonsense dictation : Write ka, then kaa, then random choice.

2. Real words for contrast.

1	gán	firewood
2	gáan	outside
3	chán	odor
4	chaan	mother in law
5	Ná!	Take it!
6	naa	tribe; moiety
7	dáanaa	money
8	Adaná	He's drinking it.
9	shá	head
10	shaa	mountain
11	sháa	women

3. Words with both vowels.

1	shaawát	woman
2	haa aat há	our paternal aunts
3	haa kaak há	our maternal uncles
4	Daa sáyá?	What's this?
5	Daa sáyá yáat?	What's this here?

E

Short E as in English ten

1. Nonsense words: Write ka ten times, saying it each time.
2. Real words.

1	té	stone
2	né	hairy seaweed with herring eggs
3	wé té	that stone
4	wé né	that né

(Note: if your dialect uses long wéi instead of short we, don't worry. The next letter will be ei and will solve the problem.)

3. Words with E and old letters (A AA)

1	tatgé	yesterday
2	kasné	knitting
3	Daa sáwé?	What's that?
4	haa sé	our voice
5	té áwé	That's a stone.
6	Kasné áwé.	That's knitting.
7	at katé	bullet
8	Haat tán wé át.	Bring that thing here. (empty container)
9	Haat satán wé át.	Bring that thing here. (rifle or pole)
10	Haat kasatán wé át.	Bring that thing here. (pencil)
11	Aan áwé.	That's a town.
12	Waa sáwé?	Why? 'What's wrong?

EI

Long EI as in English vein

1. Nonsense words: Write kei ten times, repeating as you write.

2. Real words.

1	dei	road
2	seit	necklace
3	yéin	sea cucumber

3. Words with EI and old letters (A AA E)

1	kanéist	cross
2	shayeit	pillow
3	kakéin	yarn
4	Déi áwé!	That's enough!
5	Yéi áwé	That's how it is.
6	tawéi	Mt. sheep (curved horns)
7	shayéinaa	anchor
8	yagéi	large; it's numerous
9	Natá déi.	go to sleep
10	Wéit hán.	He's standing there.
11	Kanéist áwé.	That's a cross.

REVIEW OF AA AA EI

Most people have the greatest trouble distinguishing the letters A AA and EI. If you are studying in a class, the teacher will dictate the nonsense word drill. If you are studying alone, practice these words:

- ká (on the top of)
 haa (our, or as in haadéi = this way)
 yéi (thus, as in yéi éve)

NONSENSE WORD DRILL: Dictate ka, kaa, kei, then mix the three words, dictating at random. Return to this drill as often as necessary.

REAL WORDS FOR CONTRAST

- | | | |
|-----|------|---------------|
| 1 | á | it |
| 2 | ná | take it |
| 3 | hás | them |
| * 4 | aaa | yes |
| 5 | naa | tribe; moiety |
| 6 | aas | tree |
| 7 | dei | road |
| 8 | seit | necklace |
| 9 | jein | sea cucumber |

*The word for "yes" has many personal variants:
 aaa, áaa, máa, etc.

I

Short I as in English hit.

1. Nonsense words : Write ki ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Real words.

1	hít	house
2	dís	moon
3	shí	song
4	ísh	deep place where fish gather

3. Words with I plus old letters (A AA E EI)

1	Hít áwé.	That's a house.
2	Dís áwé.	That's the moon.
3	Idaná.	Drink it!
4	keishísh	alder
5	shayadihéin	lots; plentiful
6	Haa shayadihéin.	There are a lot of us.
7	Haat tí wé té.	Bring the stone here.
8	Haat satí wé shayeit.	Bring the pillow here.
9	Haat katí wé dáanaa.	Bring the dollar (coin) here. (" " money " ")
10	Haat tí wé dáanaa.	Bring the money here. (paper \$)

NOTE: If you say wéi, write wéi. For example:

Haat tí wéi té.

This alphabet can write all dialects equally well. Write it as you hear it or say it.

EE

Long EE as in English seek.

1. Nonsense words: Write kee ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Real words.

1 séek	belt
2 héen	water
3 kéet	killer whale
4 kées	bracelet
5 geesh	kelp
6 éesh	father
7 sée	daughter
8 yéet	son

NOTE: The last three words normally have a possessive pronoun (my, your, his, our, etc.). The pronoun "your" in Tlingit is spoken and written either long or short, depending on dialect: i or ee. If you say it long, write it long; if you say it short, write it short.

1 haa éesh	our father
2 i éesh	your father
3 haa sée	our daughter
4 i sée	your daughter
5 haa yéet	our son
6 i yéet	your son

4. Words with EE plus old letters (A AA E EI I)

1	haa sánee	our paternal uncle
2	haa hídee	our house
3	haa káanee	our in law
4	naa káanee	spokesman for in laws at potlatch
* 5	haa sanee háś	our paternal uncles
6	haa éesh háś	our fathers
7	géewaa	beer
8	Géewaa adaná.	He's drinking beer.
9	Héen adaná.	He's drinking water.
10	Kéet awsiteen.	He saw a killer whale.
11	Iyatéen gé wé yéin?	Do you see the yéin?
12	náayadee	half dried fish
13	Deisheetaan	Raven moiety clan of Angoon
14	haa kéesee	our bracelet
15	haa séegee	our belt
16	at kahéenee	juice
17	téeyaa	chisel
18	i káak	your maternal uncle
* 19	i kaak háś	your maternal uncles
20	i aat	your paternal aunt
21	i aat háś	your paternal aunts

* #5 and #19 are examples of "stolen" stress. Another example is haa káanee changing to haa kaanee yán. The normal high tone is often "stolen" by following words such as háś yán and yé.

U

Short U as in English put, pull, bush

1. Nonsense words: Write ku ten times, saying it aloud.

2. Real words.

1	gút	dime
2	kút	nest
3	du gúk	his ear
4	núkt	male grouse
5	hú	him, her
6	sú	kelp streamers
7	Ún!	shoot
8	dúsh	tadpole; pollywog

3. Words with U plus old letters (A AA E EI I EE)

1	Héen tudaná.	We are drinking water.
2	Gút wutositeen.	We saw a dime.
3	At kahéenee wutudináa.	We drank juice.
4	Dei Shú	Haines
5	At únt.	He's shooting at something. (firing several shots)
6	Yaa nagút.	He's going along.
7	Daak uwagút.	He came out (from somewhere.)
8	Daa sáyú?	What's that (over yonder)?
9	a kú	its tail

00

Long 00 as in English moon, pool

1. Nonsense words: Write koo ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Random drill: Dictate ku, then koo, then give them at random.
3. Real words.

1	dóosh	cat
2	wóo	father in law
3	góok	go ahead

4. Words using 00 plus all other vowels (A AA E EI I EE U)

1	óonaa	rifle
2	cháayoo	tea
3	haa shagóon	our ancestors
4	Chookaneidéé	(Eagle moiety clan)
5	Wooshkeetaan	(Eagle moiety clan)
6	chooneit	wounding arrow
7	kóoshdaa	land otter
8	anahoo	rutabaga
9	kawóot	beads
10	wanadóo	domestic sheep
11	chookán	grass
12	koogéinaa	ANB banner
13	kootéeyaa	totem pole
14	ooháan	us
15	neigóon	neigoon berries
16	Aadéi woogoot	He went there.

FINAL W AFTER VOWELS: W as in English cow

You already know the beginning w as in English wet.

In Tlingit, as in English, there is a final W sound.

Compare:	naa	moiety
	náaw	liquor
	du wóo	his father in law
	du wóow	his chest

1. Nonsense words : Contrast ka and kaw. Write kaw ten times, saying it aloud. Then write ka and kaw, and either of the two at random.

2. Real words using final W.

1	náaw	liquor
2	gaaw	drum
3	du gaawóo	his drum
4	séew	rain
5	yaaw	herring
6	daaw	kelp stem
7	Atóow.	He's reading it.
8	du wóo	his father in law
9	du wóow	his chest
10	wóow	lunch
11	du wóowoo	his lunch
12	du éenwoo	his food taken home from a banquet

FINAL Y AFTER VOWELS: Y as in English buy

You already know the beginning Y as in English yes.

In English and Tlingit there is a final Y sound.

Compare: akaa He's measuring it.

 kaay mile

1. Nonsense words: Contrast kaa and kaay. Write kaay ten times, repeating the word aloud. Then dictate kaa and kaay, followed by random choice of the two.

2. Real words with final Y

1	taay	blubber
2	táay	garden
3	yáay	whale
4	kaay	mile
5	du téey	his chin
6	du keey	his knee
7	yaa	bass; sea trout

FINAL W AFTER CONSONANTS

(See "Sound Supplement" for a description of the sound.)

1. Nonsense word: Write aakw ten times, saying it aloud each time.

2. Nonsense contrast: aak aakw

Repeat the contrast, with the teacher dictating first aak then aakw then a choice at random.

3. Real contrast: compare

yaak mussel

yaakw boat

4. Real words:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | yaakw | boat |
| 2 | nadáakw | table |
| 3 | Yanéekw. | He is sick. |
| 4 | kaháakw | salmon eggs; any female fish |
| 5 | táakw | winter |
| 6 | nóoskw | wolverine |
| 7 | sakwnéin | bread |
| 8 | _____ yóo duwasáakw. | He/she/it is called _____. |
| 9 | Kanaash yóo duwasáakw. | He is called Kanaash. |
| 10 | Nóoskw yóo duwasáakw. | It is called wolverine. |
| 11 | Waa sá yóo duwasáakw? | What is it called? |

J as in English Jet

1. Nonsense word: Write jaa ten times, repeating it aloud.

2. Real words

1	jáajee	snowshoes
2	jánwoo	mountain goat (spike horn)
3	jinkaat	ten
4	du jín	his hand
5	keijín	five

Dáanaa du jeewóo.

He has money.

Jáajee du jeewóo.

He has snowshoes.

Du jeet satán wé óonaa.

Give him the rifle.

Du jeet tí wé té.

Give him the stone.

Té du jeet tí.

Give him a stone.

Du jeet jikatí wé kakéin.

Hand her the yarn.

Du jeet jiksatí wé kakéin.

Hand her the yarn.

Yéi jiné.

He's working.

Yéi jitooné.

We are working.

Yéi gé jeené?

Are you working?

CONTRAST BETWEEN G AND J.

1. Nonsense: Write ga ten times, saying it aloud.

Write ja ten times, saying it aloud.

Write ga then ja, then a random contrast.

Real words contrasting j and g:

gán = firewood gáan = outside

jánwoo = Mt. goat jáajee = snowshoes

a kíjee = its wing du jínee = his sleeve

a kígee = half of it a geenée = its flipper

geesh = kelp

goon = spring water

du goosh = his thumb

góon = gold

jóon = dream

Haat kajél wéi át.

Bring those things.

Géewaa du jeewóo.

He's got beer.

Du séegée gé i jeewóo?

Do you have his belt?

Haat kajél wé geesh.

Bring the kelp here.

Gishoo du jeewóo.

He has a pig.

Catch-in-the-breath

1	wa.é	you
2	naa.át	clothes
3	yaana.eit	Indian celery
4	kanas.aat	spider
5	shakee.át	dance head-dress
6	yee.át	bed
7	yaa.aa.oonéi	old squaw duck
8	Kiks.ádee	Raven moiety clan in Sitka
9	at sa.ée	a cook
10	As.ée.	He's cooking it.

Yaa has na.át.	They are going along.
Du jeet sa.ín wé héen.	Give him the water.
Tsaa too.únt.	We are shooting seals.
Yee.át kát tá.	He's sleeping on the bed.
Hít ák.wé?	Is that a house?

Yaa anas.héin.	He is starting to miss something.
Yaa anashéin.	He (dog) is going along barking.

L

(See "Sound Supplement" for a description of the sound.)

1. Nonsense: Write la ten times, saying it as you write.

2. Real words:

1	shál	spoon
2	chál	storehouse
3	chíl	storehouse (southern dialect)
4	sháal	fish trap
5	yéil	raven
6	gwéil	bag
7	téel	shoes
8	du téeele	his shoes
9	teel	scar
10	lítaa	knife
11	Lingít	Tlingit
12	lóol	fireweed
13	lidál	it's heavy (person)
14	yadál	it's heavy (rock)
15	ldakát	everything; all
16	gunalchéesh	thank you
17	du lú	his nose
18	Cháayoo alóok.	He's sipping tea.
19	Cháayoo toolóok.	We are sipping tea.
20	Cháayoo wutuwalúk.	We sipped tea.

TS and DZ

TS as in English cats

Real words:

1	tsaa	seal
2	tsu	also
3	yatseen	it is alive
4	latseen	strength
5	tulatséen	strength of mind
6	tséit	wild sweet potatoes
7	tsáats	carrot-like roots (bear-roots)
8	Litseen.	He is strong.
9	tsín	muskrat
10	yatseeneit	any bear

DZ as in English adze

Real words:

1	dzeit	ladder; bridge; stairs
2	lidzée	it's hard
3	dzántee	halibut
4	dzaná	fermented half dried fish
5	dzoonáa	snowball; round object to throw

TL and DL

TL as in English little (Be careful not to spell it cl)

1	chaatl	halibut
2	keitl	dog
3	aatlein	big, lots
4	du tláa	his mother
5	tléil or tlél	not
6	tláakw	quickly

DL as in English cradle (Be careful not to spell it gl)

1	dleit	snow
2	dleey	meat
3	dleit shaawát	white woman
4	dláa or hadláa	(exclamation)

X

(See "Sound Supplement" for an explanation of the sound.)

Nonsense word: Write xaa ten times, saying it aloud each time.

1	kóox	rice
2	tíx	dog flea
3	xóots	brown bear
4	naaxein	Chilkat blanket
5	xáanaa	evening
6	Xunaa	Hoonah
7	xóon	north wind
8	xoodzée or xoodzí	partially burnt wood
9	káaxwei or gáaxwei	coffee
10	gáaxw	ducks
11	dáxw	lowbush cranberries
12	xwéi !	whew!
13	I wdixwétl gé?	Are you tired?

X

(See "Sound Supplement" for a description of the back or "guttural" sounds.)

1. Nonsense words: Write xaa ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Nonsense contrast: Write xaa and xaa, then dictate at random.
3. Real words:

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | <u>xáay</u> | yellow cedar |
| 2 | <u>xaay</u> | steam bath house |
| 3 | <u>xáat</u> | fish; salmon |
| 4 | <u>ax</u> <u>xáadee</u> | my fish |
| 5 | aas <u>xaadée</u> | tree root |
| 6 | <u>eex</u> | oil |
| 7 | <u>déix</u> | two |
| 8 | du <u>xúx</u> | her husband |
| 9 | du <u>shátx</u> | her older sister |
| 10 | <u>ax</u> <u>oox</u> | my tooth |
| 11 | <u>ax</u> <u>dachxán</u> | my grandchild |
| 12 | du <u>húnxw</u> | his older brother |
| 13 | <u>Xat</u> wudixwétl. | I'm tired. |
| 14 | <u>Xat</u> isixán gé? | Do you love me? |
| 15 | <u>Ixsixán.</u> | I love you. |
| 16 | <u>Xat</u> isixánee, goosu wa.é? | If you love me, where are you? |
| 17 | <u>Xáat</u> <u>xaxá.</u> | I am eating fish. |
| 18 | <u>Útlxee</u> <u>tooxá.</u> | We are eating boiled fish. |

G

1. Nonsense word: Write Ga ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Nonsense contrast: Write Ga and Ga, then dictate ten at random.
3. Real word contrasts:

1	g <u>oo</u> ch	hill
2	g <u>oo</u> ch	wolf
3	g <u>á</u> n	firewood
4	g <u>á</u> n	look!

4. Words.

1	g <u>oo</u> ch	wolf
2	g <u>á</u> ach	rug
3	g <u>á</u> nch	Indian tobacco
4	<u>G</u> anú!	sit down
5	<u>G</u> án!	look!
6	jigwéinaa	towel
7	g <u>á</u> atl	pilot bread; cracker
8	geiwóo	seine
9	kaa yageijeit	chair
10	seigán	tomorrow
11	g <u>á</u> x	rabbit
12	g <u>a</u> ax	cry; lament
13	g <u>a</u> at	sockeye (red)
14	Du g <u>oo</u> jée yinaadéi	"toward his wolf"

K

1. Nonsense word: Write Ka ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Nonsense contrast: Write ka, then ka then a random selection.
3. Real words:

1	<u>k</u> áa	man
2	<u>k</u> élaa	platter
3	<u>k</u> óok	box
4	<u>k</u> u.aa	however
5	<u>k</u> wáan	people from a given area
6	<u>k</u> ee.á	dawn; daylight
7	é <u>k</u>	beach
8	ee <u>k</u>	copper
9	kó <u>k</u>	cellar
10	sha <u>k</u>	driftwood
11	du wá <u>k</u>	his eye
12	du tó <u>k</u>	his rear end
13	tléi <u>k</u> w	berries
14	ná <u>k</u> w	devilfish; octopus
15	na <u>k</u> w	rotten wood
16	dleit <u>k</u> áa	white man
17	aank <u>k</u> áawoo	rich man; "chief"; lord
18	Dikee Aank <u>k</u> áawoo	The Lord; God
19	kook <u>k</u> énaa	sand flea
20	at <u>k</u> oowóo	its den

T'

The final letters of this mini primer introduce the glottalized consonants, popularly called "pinched." See the "Sound Supplement" for a description of these sounds in general.

1. Nonsense word: Write t'ei ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Nonsense contrast: Write tei and t'ei, then a random dictation.
3. Real word contrasts:

1	tá	he's sleeping
2	t'á	king salmon
3	du téey	his chin
4	du t'eeey	his elbow

4. Real words.

1	t'á	king salmon
2	du t'eeey	his elbow
3	t'ook	papoose board
4	t'áa	board
5	t'áa ká	floor
6	kanat'á	blueberries
7	xít'aa	broom
8	sít'	glacier
9	lóot'	eel
10	t'aay	warm spring
11	t'aaw	long feathers

L'

1. Nonsense word: Write eel' ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Nonsense contrast: Write eel, then eel', then a random choice.
3. Real contrasts:

1	yéil	raven
2	yéil'	elderberry
3	téel	shoe
4	téel'	dog salmon

4. Words.

1	gáal'	clams
2	téel'	dog salmon
3	yéil'	elderberries
4	kéil'	dandruff
5	éil'	salt; ocean
6	l'ée	new blanket
7	l'ook	coho (silver)
8	du l'aa	her breast
9	xákwl'ee	soap berries
10	al'óon	He's hunting.

s'

1. Nonsense word: Write s'a ten times, saying it aloud.
2. Nonsense contrast: Write sa, then s'a, then contrast at random.
3. Real contrasts:

1	sé	voice
2	s'é	clay
3	séek	belt
4	s'eeek	black bear
5	góos	female sex organ
6	góos'	cloud

4. Words.

1	s'áaw	crab
2	s'ikshaldéen	Hudson Bay tea
3	s'áaxw	hat
4	du s'áaxoo	his hat
5	s'eeek	black bear
6	s'eex	dirt; dust
7	cháas'	humpy (pink)
8	káas'	algae
9	háas'	vomit
10	gáas'	house post
11	nás'k	three

X'

1. Nonsense: Write x'a ten times from dictation, saying the word.
2. Nonsense contrast: Dictate xa, then x'a then random.
3. Real word contrasts:

1	tíx	dog flea
2	tíx'	rope
3	xóon	north wind
4	x'óon	how much?
5	xóow	stone memorial
6	x'óow	blanket

4. Real words.

1	tíx'	rope
2	lóox'	urine
3	káax'	chicken; grouse (female)
4	tléix'	one
5	x'oon sá	how much?
6	x'óow	blanket
7	x'áan	anger
8	gúx'aa	cup
9	x'áax'	apple
10	x'úx'	book
11	gáax'oo	riddle
12	gáax'w	riddle
13	l'ée x'wán	socks

K'

1. Nonsense word: Dictate k'a ten times.
2. Nonsense contrast: Dictate ka, then k'a, then random choice.
3. Real word contrasts:

1	du káak	his maternal uncle
2	du káak'	his forehead
3	kóox	rice
4	k'óox	marten

4. Real words.

1	tléik'	(There are many pronuncia- no tions for Tléik'. We suggest you spell it this way, but use your teacher's pronunciation.)
2	du káak'	his forehead
3	du dlaak'	his sister
4	du kéek'	her younger sister his younger brother
5	du éek'	her brother
6	du kéilk'	his sister's child
7	k'ínk'	fermented fish heads
8	k'óox	marten
9	yak'éi	That's fine.

5. Words with k'w

1	k'wát'	egg
2	dzísk'w	moose; owl
3	du léelk'w	his grandfather
4	du tláak'w	his maternal aunt
5	du káalk'w	her brother's child

CH'

1. Nonsense word: Dictate ch's ten times.
2. Nonsense contrast: Dictate cha, then ch'a, then random choice.
3. Real word contrast:

eech	submerged reef
éech'	pebble; heavy

4. Words.

1	ch'éen	hair ribbon
2	ch'eet	auklet; diving bird; murrelet
3	ch'áak'	eagle
4	xíxch'	frog
5	sháach'	needlefish
6	yáxwch'	sea otter
7	yúxch'	sea otter
8	t'ooch'	black; coal
9	<u>x</u> alak'ách	porcupine
10	hóoch'	that's all

TL'

1. Nonsense word: Dictate tl'ee ten times.
2. Nonsense contrast: Dictate tlee, then tl'ee, then ten random.
3. Contrast:

tléikw	berries
--------	---------

tl'eik	finger
--------	--------

4. Words.

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | tl'átk | land; earth |
| 2 | haa tl'átgee | our land |
| 3 | tl'ook | scabs; sores |
| 4 | du tl'oogóo | his scab |
| 5 | a tl'óogoo | its liver |
| 6 | tl'áatl' | yellow |
| 7 | háatl' | excrement; body waste |
| 8 | núkdi háatl'ee | big, light snowflakes |
| 9 | gayéis' háatl'ee | rust |
| 10 | tl'étl' | moonfish; suckerfish |
| 11 | tl'átl' | moonfish; suckerfish |

TS'

The ts' sound seems to be being lost in modern Tlingit. For many speakers and in many dialect areas there is a merging of ts' with s'. All languages change, and again we suggest the accepted standard in your area in cases where there is disagreement over words on the list.

1. Nonsense: Dictate ts'aa ten times.
2. Nonsense contrast: Write tsaa, then ts'aa, then random dictation.
3. Words.

1	ts'ítskw	any small song bird
2	ts'axweil	crow
3	ts'eigeenéi or ts'eigeenée	magpie
4	ts'ootaat	morning
5	ts'eekáxk'w	mountain blueberry
6	at ts'éek'oo	muscles of shell creatures
7	at ts'ík'wtee	" " " "
8	xáats'	distant blue sky
9	kuts'een	rat
10	kookíts'aa	see saw; teeter totter
11	kaneilts'úk	swamp currant; black currant
12	tlágoo ts'ats'éeyee	old gray singing bird

K'

1. Nonsense dictation: k'a
2. Nonsense contrast: ka, kax, k'a, then random selection

3. Real words.

1	<u>k</u> 'aan	dolphin
2	<u>k</u> 'ákw	owl without ear tufts
3	<u>k</u> 'anáaxán	fence
4	<u>k</u> 'anoox	small labret
5	tuk <u>u</u> 'atáal	pants; trousers
6	lítaa <u>k</u> 'áatl'	table knife (thin and flat)

4. Words with k'w

<u>k</u> 'wátl	cooking pot
léi <u>k</u> 'w	red snapper
<u>k</u> 'eik <u>u</u> 'w	sea pigeon (kitty wake)

X'

1. Nonsense dictation: x'a
2. Nonsense contrast: xa, x'a and choice at random.
3. Real words.

1	<u>x'</u> awool	doorway
2	<u>x'</u> óon	fur seal
3	<u>x'</u> aan	red; fire
4	<u>x'</u> aal'	skunk cabbage
5	<u>x'</u> áakw	salmon that becomes red after reaching fresh water
6	<u>x'</u> éishx'w	blue; bluejay
7	du <u>x'</u> é	his mouth
8	du <u>x'</u> oos	his foot
9	du <u>x'</u> ás'	his jaw
10	du <u>x'</u> óol'	his stomach
11	at <u>x'</u> éeshee	dried fish
12	yoo <u>x'</u> atánk	speech
13	shoo <u>x'</u>	robin
14	ch'e <u>x'</u> or ch'ee <u>x'</u>	thimbleberry
15	wé <u>x'</u>	bullhead
16	du <u>déx'</u> or du <u>díx'</u>	his back
17	du <u>téix'</u>	his heart
18	tsá <u>x'</u>	mittens

X' continued.

4. Words with x'w

1	<u>x</u> 'wáal'	down feathers
2	<u>x</u> 'wáat'	trout
3	shé <u>x</u> 'w	orange; alder tree
4	né <u>x</u> 'w	cloudberry
5	lé <u>x</u> 'w	face paint

DRILL CHARTS

The four k and four x sounds are the most difficult for native speakers to spell and for non-speakers to distinguish. The following two charts are designed for recognition, spelling, and pronunciation practice. To use the chart, the teacher can make the sound and ask the student to point to it; or the teacher can point to the letter and have the student make the sounds. Also, the teacher can use the chart to dictate nonsense contrasts such as ka k'a ka and k'a, or xa x'a xa and x'a. When drilling you can go in order and also go at random.

K	<u>K</u>
K'	<u>K</u> '

X	<u>X</u>
X'	<u>X</u> '

DRILLING

na	naa	ne	nei
an	aan	en	ein
ta	taa	te	tei
at	aat	et	eit
sha	shaa	she	shei
ash	aash	esh	eish
ka	kaa	ke	kei
ak	aak	ek	eik

SOUND SUPPLEMENT: HOW TO MAKE THE SOUNDS

The human mouth is the same around the world. But each society uses only certain muscles to make noises which communicate—the sounds of a language. The other muscles fall into disuse. The older we get, the harder it is to restrain the muscles used in other people's language, but not in our own. The beginning student of a new language is like a runner or gymnast the first day of practice.

Three major things happen in Tlingit which do not happen in English.

1. Rounding
2. Backing
3. Pinching

Any combination of these three (3) features may happen, as will be shown below.

ROUNDING

Rounding means that k, g, or x sounds may be made with the lips rounded. This presents no problem for English speakers in a word like gwéil, where it happens at the beginning, as in the English "Gwendolyn."

Also compare "quick" which is actually kwik—the q being the same as "k" and the "c" silent in this word.

In Tlingit a sound may be rounded in the middle of a word: sakwnéin.

Most difficult for beginners are the final rounded sounds.

Contrast:	yaak	mussel
	yaakw	boat

To make the sound, make the k, but with the lips rounded, as if for the oo or w sounds.

A gimmick to help you may be to say: yaak wick or
 yaa kwik

together, and try to get rid of the " ik" part, leaving you the rounded k.

In the alphabet, w is treated as just another letter. Technically, it is a separate sound only when in the beginning of a word or syllable, such as wé or áwé. After k, x or g it signifies rounding. Compare the ALPHABET with the SOUND CHART.

BACKING

English words only go as far back in the mouth as k and g. In Tlingit, there is a group of sounds made further back in the throat. These sounds are shown in writing by an underline. These are uvular sounds, popularly called "gutteral."

compare:	gooch	hill
	gooch	wolf

To practice the back sounds, make an English k or g several times. Feel where it is made, then open your mouth wider and force the k or g further down your throat. Be sure to say the SOUND and not the name "Kay" or "Gee."

AIR

Before talking about the third major feature of Tlingit—PINCHING—let's talk about AIR.

Imagine your mouth as the end of a big hose. Your lungs supply air; your throat carries it to your mouth and out.

Say the English sound t—AGAIN, the SOUND, not the word "tea."

Then say the sound s.

Feel the air flow non-stop on s, but stop on t. You cannot make a t last, but you can make an s last as long as you have air.

Therefore, t is called a "stop" because the air stops. S is called a fricative because there is FRICTION that is, scraping of the air in a steady stream.

PINCHING

In Tlingit, there are stops and fricatives. But in addition there are PINCHED sounds. In a pinched sound, the air flow is cut off in the throat.

Imagine that you pinch your hose and then only the air (water, if it's a garden hose, gas, if a fuel line) left after the pinch gets out.

This is easier to explain with FRICATIVES than STOPS because of the air flow.

Say the s sound. Keep it going. Then close off your air flow from the lungs. If you can make the Tlingit l or x sound, do the same.

For pinched t' k' and k' you will have to imitate your teacher. They are sounds like t k and k, but with mouth air or left over air only.

The pinched sounds are written with an apostrophe: t' k' k'
x' x' ch' etc.

SOUNDS LIKE ENGLISH

Many sounds are like English: h n w y s sh t ch and k are like English and need no explanation: d j g are similar, and most learners use the English values. But g is as in "gun," never as in "George."

Technically, and to a Tlingit, they are different. In English, they are made with the vocal chords buzzing. In Tlingit they are like t ch and k, but without the puff of air. They sound to non Tlingit speakers like d j and g.

Several other sounds exist in English but in different places in words: dl dz tl and ts never come first in an English word.

compare:	cradle,	ladle
	adze,	pads (actually padz)
	little,	
	cats,	rats

To use them in Tlingit you have only to get used to beginning words with them:

dleit
dzeit
tlein
tsaa

(L)

The English l uses the voice or vocal chords. Say the l sound and feel your throat. The Tlingit L is voiceless. It does not have the vocal chords buzzing.

To make the Tlingit L put your tongue exactly as for English, but then simply breathe out. If you have trouble, say S and Z. Feel the buzz in Z, but not in S. The Z uses the voice, but the S is made just breathing out.

(X)

The Tlingit X is difficult at first. It is made in the same place in the mouth as K. But K stops the air, and X lets it flow. To get started, try to make a K last by keeping the air flowing. You will probably make a kx sound, but eventually you can get rid of the K and have the pure X.

Try to get your mouth muscles ready for a K, but then breathe out. The PINCHED X' is an X with the air pinched.

The X is like the German sound in "ich." The back X is an X made further back in the throat like the German sound "ach" or clearing your throat.

THE FOUR K AND X SOUNDS

The four k and x sounds are the most difficult for Tlingit speakers to spell and non speakers to learn.

K	<u>K</u>
K'	<u>K'</u>

X	<u>X</u>
X'	<u>X'</u>

These require constant drill. Try saying them to yourself while walking down the street or in the shower. Drill every day on the contrast.

MORE K AND X SOUNDS

The basic four K and X sounds can also be rounded as well. Tlingit has one of the most complicated sound systems in the world. The chart below shows why.

	<u>FRONT</u>	<u>ROUND</u>	<u>BACK</u>	
	(velar)	(labialized)	(uvular)	
	g	gw	<u>gw</u>	g
	k	kw	<u>kw</u>	k
PINCHED	k'	k'w	<u>k'w</u>	k'
	x'	x'w	<u>x'w</u>	x'
	x	xw	<u>xw</u>	x
				GLOTTALIZED

Thus, of the three features backing, rounding, and pinching, a k or x sound may have 1, 2, or all 3 in any combination!

TECHNICAL SOUND CHART

		FRONT OF MOUTH				BACK OF MOUTH				
		dental	lateral	alveolar	alveo palatal	velar	velar rounded	uvular	uvular rounded	glottal
S T O P S	Plain	d	dl	dz	j	g	gw	g	gw	.
	Aspirated	t	tl	ts	ch	k	kw	<u>k</u>	<u>kw</u>	
	Glottalized "pinched"	t'	tl'	ts'	ch'	k'	k'w	<u>k'</u>	<u>k'w</u>	
F R I C A T I V E S	Aspirated		l	s	sh	x	xw	<u>x</u>	<u>xw</u>	h
	Glottalized		l'	s'		x'	x'w	<u>x'</u>	<u>x'w</u>	
	NASAL	n								

VOWELS

Short a i e u

Long aa ee ei oo

Some dialects require special letters.

(M)

Yukon or Interior Tlingit has the sound M as in English. Where found, it replaces the coast w. Some coast speakers, especially in Angoon, have m also:

awsikóo = amsikóo "he knows"

(L)

Some older speakers have a voiced l, as in English "let." This is written with an underlined l. Where found, it replaces n.

héen = héel "water"

(Y)

Yakutat preserves a voiced velar fricative noted by earlier writers, such as Boas and Swanton. In most areas, the y has changed to y. (English spelling of old place names such as Gantegastaki near Haines record a y sound which has changed to y.)

áyá "this is"
a yá "its face"

The only dialect differing radically from others is the Tongass dialect, now spoken by about five people.

kéet = kée't "killerwhale"

Southern Tlingit is characterized by dropping of vowels which cause plain stops to become aspirated (d becomes t, etc.).

awsikóo = awskóo "he knows"
jiwdigút = jiwtgút "he went fighting"

The only other sound needing comment is the o, pronounced as in English "yo ho ho." It is found in very few words, most frequently in the words "ho ho" used by listeners to signify agreement with a speaker during formal oratory. When long, it is written ou.

TONE

Tlingit is a tone language. Musical-like high and low pitch are used to convey word differences. In the alphabet the sign marks high tone. Low tone has no mark.

xáat fish
xaat tree root

To practice, imagine music: low high low or high low or low low

ax xáadee my fish

ax xaadée my root

Kaagwaantaan (a clan name)

THE ALPHABET: HOW TO WRITE THE SOUNDS

It is easier to teach spelling by presenting the letters as an alphabet rather than a chart. In particular, w is treated as just another letter. The numbers below refer to the lesson* in which the letter is introduced. No number means lesson one.

a	ch	j	s	ts' (4)
aa	ch' (2)	k	s' (3)	w
e	d	k' (2)	sh	x
ei	dl	<u>k</u> (2)	t	x' (4)
i	dz	<u>k'</u> (4)	t' (4)	<u>x</u>
ee	g	l	tl (2)	<u>x'</u> (3)
u	<u>g</u> (2)	l' (4)	tl' (3)	y
oo	h	n	ts	.

*Beginning Tlingit Edited by R. D. Due out Fall, 1974.

Combinations were introduced as follows:

xw	k'w (2)	gw (3)	x'w (4)
kw	xw (2)		k'w (4)
			kw (4)
			x'w (4)

The alphabet used in these lessons is that devised by Constance Naish and Gillian Story. It is the same as that being used in the Tlingit Readers and in the Tlingit verb dictionary.

There are NO SILENT LETTERS. Each sound has its own letter, and each letter has its own sound. Try not to be confused by English, which has a very poor writing system (For example, can you hear the different sounds written with the letter "o": hot, ton, home, off, women? Tlingit never does this.).

THE VOWELS

	English Example		Tlingit Example
a	was	tás	(thread)
aa	Saab (Swedish car)	taan	(sea lion)
e	ten	té	(stone)
ei	vein	kakéin	(wool, yarn)
i	hit	hít	(house)
ee	seek	séek	(belt)
u	push	gút	(dime)
oo	moon	dóosh	(cat)

CONSONANTS

ch	cháatl	halibut
ch'	ch'áak'	eagle
d	dóosh	cat
dl	dleit haa keidlée	snow; white our dog
dz	dzeit	ladder; stairs, bridge
g	gooch	hill
g	gooch	wolf
h	hít	house
j	ax jín	my hand
k	du káak	his uncle
k'	du káak'	his forehead
<u>k</u>	du waak	his eye
<u>k'</u>	<u>k'</u> ateil	pitcher
l	yéil	raven
l'	yéil'	elderberry
n	náaw	liquor
s	séek	belt
s'	s'EEK	black bear
sh	shál	spoon
t	té	stone
t'	t'á	king salmon
tl	tléik' tléikw keitl	no berry dog

CONSONANTS (con't.)

tl'	du tl'eik	his finger
ts	tsaa	seal
ts'	ts'itskw	small bird
w	du waak séew yaakw du húnxw gáax'w	his eye rain boat his older brother herring eggs
x	xóots kóox tíx	brown bear rice dog flea
x'	tíx'	rope
<u>x</u>	<u>x</u> áat	fish; salmon
<u>x</u> '	du <u>x</u> 'é <u>x</u> 'éishx'w	his mouth camp robber
y	yéil táay yáay	raven garden whale
.	wa.é	you

The mark ' is written wherever the voice is high:

<u>ax</u>	<u>x</u> áadee	my fish
<u>ax</u>	<u>x</u> aadée	my tree root
<u>ax</u>	sánee	my paternal uncle
<u>ax</u>	sanee há's	my paternal uncles
<u>ax</u>	aat há's	my paternal aunts

REVISIONS IN SPELLING

Some of you may have earlier materials using the Naish-Story writing system, such as the green Noun Dictionary, the Gospel of John, or the red and blue reading books. The following revisions have been made with the approval of Miss Naish and Miss Story.

- 1) the final silent h is dropped
- 2) the silent hyphen is dropped
- 3) the low pitch marker is dropped; only high is now written, wherever the voice is high
- 4) the values of three letters have been changed, so that all long vowels are now written double:

<u>old</u>	<u>new</u>	<u>new</u>	<u>old</u>
(u)	a	aa	(a)
	i	ee	
	e	ei	
(o)	u	oo	

<u>old</u>	<u>new</u>
téh	té
dánah	dáanaa
t'úh	t'á
<u>ux</u> lóh	<u>ax</u> lú
<u>ux</u> kèidlee	<u>ax</u> keidlée
héen kàh-n <u>ux</u>	héen kaaná <u>x</u>

GOOD LUCK!

Supplement to Beginning Tlingit, edited by R. Dauenhauer.
A project of Alaska Native Language Center, CNER, University
of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska.

PRONUNCIATION DRILL

kaa	<u>kaa</u>	gaa	<u>gaa</u>	xaa	<u>xaa</u>
ka	<u>ka</u>	ga	<u>ga</u>	xa	<u>xa</u>
kei	<u>kei</u>	gei	<u>gei</u>	xei	<u>xei</u>
ke	<u>ke</u>	ge	<u>ge</u>	xe	<u>xe</u>
kee	<u>kee</u>	gee	<u>gee</u>	xee	<u>xee</u>
ki	<u>ki</u>	gi	<u>gi</u>	xi	<u>xi</u>
koo	<u>koo</u>	goo	<u>goo</u>	xoo	<u>xoo</u>
ku	<u>ku</u>	gu	<u>gu</u>	xu	<u>xu</u>

CONSONANT PRACTICE

d	dI	dz	j	g	gw	g	gw
dóosh (cat)	dleit (white or snow)	dzeit (ladder)	jáajee (snowshoes)	gooch (hill)	gwéil (sack or bag)	gooch (wolf)	jigwéinaa (towel)
t	tI	ts	ch	k	kw	k	kw
té (stone)	tléik' (no)	ttaa (seal)	cháI (storehouse)	kéet (kill er whale)	nakaákw (table)	káa (man)	náakw (devilfish)
t'	tI'	ts'	ch'	k'	k'w	k'	k'w
t'á (king salmon)	tI'éik (finger)	ts'ít ^h skw (bird)	ch'áak' (eagle)	k'ínk' (fish heads)	k'wát' (egg)	k'atéil (pitcher)	k'wátI (cooking pot)
	I	s	sh	x	xw	x	xw
	yéil (raven)	séek (belt)	sháI (spoon)	xóots (brown bear)	gáaxw (duck)	xáat (salmon)	húnxw (older brother)
	I'	s'		x'	x'w	x'	x'w
	I'óok (cohoe)	s'eek (black bear)		tíx' (rope)	gáax'w (herring eggs)	x'é (mouth)	x'wáat' (trout)

