

Mi'kmaw Alphabet sounds for each letter

Mi'kmaw consonants

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
P - B	<u>P</u> ipanim		Ask him/her
P - B	<u>P</u> anta'tu		I am opening it
P - B	Aj <u>i</u> mpa		Go to bed
Pp - P	E <u>p</u> petek		Be warm / hot liquid

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
T - D	<u>T</u> mk		First
T - D	<u>T</u> epiaq		That's enough
T - D	lka' <u>t</u>		Let it go
Tt - t	<u>T</u> ett		Here

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
K - G	<u>K</u> iskajein?		Are you ready?
K - G	<u>K</u> isna		or
K - G	Mn <u>i</u> sku		You get him/her
KK - K	Mu <u>k</u>		Don't

Q - Can sound like a rolling H = HK

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
Q - HK	<u>Q</u> ame'k		Across the water
Q - HK	Mis <u>q</u> o		Until
Q - HK	<u>q</u> ama'si		I am standing Stand up
Q - HK	mnta <u>q</u> a'tu		Unplug it

Mi'kmaw consonants

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
J	<u>J</u> iptuk		Maybe
J	<u>J</u> uku'e		Come here
J	M <u>i</u> jisi		Eat / I am eating
JJ (ch)	Nu <u>j</u> j		My Dad

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
S	<u>S</u> kma		Wait
S - Z	S <u>i</u> sip		Bird
S - Z	Jena' <u>s</u> i		Calm down
S - Z	Wa <u>s</u> oqa'tu		Turn it on

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
L - peel	<u>l</u> u'kwe		work
L - peel	<u>L</u> ika'		Walk
L - peel	W <u>l</u> a / u <u>l</u> a		This (animate)
L - peel	E <u>l</u> iey		I am going

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
M	<u>M</u> oqo		No
M	<u>m</u> +ta		because
M	<u>M</u> niske'n		You get it
M	<u>M</u> ukk wi't <u>m</u> u		Don't mention it

Mi'kmaw consonants

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
N	<u>N</u>ike'		now
N	<u>N</u>aqa'si		stop
N	<u>P</u>anta'tu		Open it
N	<u>W</u>en ?		Who?

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
W	<u>W</u>jit		for
W	<u>W</u>aqma'tu		Clean it
W	<u>J</u>ukwa'ten		Bring it over
W	<u>P</u>awa'si		I am going slow Slow down

The sound of **W** is less rounded than in English.

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
Y	<u>E</u>yk		he/she is here
Y	<u>E</u>wi'kikey		I am writing
Y	<u>P</u>emayjimkwey		I am driving by
Y	<u>E</u>toqtey		I am cooking

The sound of **Y** is more like that in the English word eye than in yellow.

Short vowels

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
A - ah = bu <u>d</u>	A <u>q</u> / a <u>q</u> q		and
A - ah = bu <u>d</u>	A <u>l</u> a' tett		Over there
A - ah = bu <u>d</u>	A <u>n</u> ka <u>p</u> ten		Look at it
A - ah = bu <u>d</u>	Wel <u>i</u> a <u>q</u>		Your welcome

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
E - eh = Be <u>d</u>	E' <u>e</u>		yes
E - eh = Be <u>d</u>	E <u>l</u> tu		I am making it
E - eh = Be <u>d</u>	L <u>i</u> e		go
E - eh = Be <u>d</u>	Ke / Ke's <u>i</u> k		Please

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
I - ee = i <u>t</u>	I <u>k</u> a'l		Let him / her go
I - ee = i <u>t</u>	Wela'l <u>i</u> n		Thank you to one person
I - ee = i <u>t</u>	N <u>a</u> ji - k <u>i</u> na'ma <u>s</u> i		I am going to go study
I - ee = i <u>t</u>	i <u>k</u> nmu <u>i</u>		Give it to me

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
O - oh = al <u>s</u> o	Wal <u>i</u> po <u>t</u>		boat
O - oh = al <u>s</u> o	<u>Q</u> qp <u>s</u> it		s/he is bundled up
O - oh = al <u>s</u> o	<u>Q</u> qwa't		S/he has arrived
O - oh = al <u>s</u> o	Wela'l <u>i</u> o <u>q</u>		Thank you / plural form Thanking everyone

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
U - ou = pu <u>t</u>	Was <u>u</u> ek		Flower
U - ou = pu <u>t</u>	S <u>i</u> pu		River
U - ou = pu <u>t</u>	M <u>u</u> in		Bear
U - ou = pu <u>t</u>	K <u>i</u> tpu		Eagle

Long Vowels

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
A' - ahh = p <u>a</u> lm	Pa <u>q</u> a'tu		I am <u>bi</u> ting an (apple)
A' - ahh = p <u>a</u> lm	Ku <u>t</u> a'tu		I am pouring it
A' - ahh = p <u>a</u> lm	Si <u>s</u> pa'tu		Wash it
A' - ahh = p <u>a</u> lm	We <u>l</u> a'liek		Thank you / plural form (from group to one person)

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
E' - ayy = W <u>h</u> ere	Ne' <u>a</u> 'tu		I am bringing it out
E' - ayy = W <u>h</u> ere	Sap <u>t</u> e'kney		fork
E' - ayy = W <u>h</u> ere	Ke' <u>k</u> wek		upstairs
E' - ayy = W <u>h</u> ere	Ke'		just

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
I' - eee = Sk <u>i</u>	ju' <u>j</u> i'j		bug
I' - eee = Sk <u>i</u>	Epi <u>t</u> e'j'i'j		Little girl
I' - eee = Sk <u>i</u>	Sa <u>q</u> mawi'skw		Female Chief
I' - eee = Sk <u>i</u>	Ji' <u>k</u> maq <u>n</u>		rattle

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
O' - ohh - al <u>s</u> o	No' <u>q</u> om		I am coughing
O' - ohh - al <u>s</u> o	Wa's <u>o</u> 'q		Heaven
O' - ohh - al <u>s</u> o	Npo' <u>q</u> n		bed
O' - ohh - al <u>s</u> o	kiw <u>t</u> o'qa'tekey		I am waving

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
U' - ouu - S <u>u</u> e	L'mu' <u>u</u> 'j		Dog
U' - ouu - S <u>u</u> e	Weji <u>n</u> u'kwatm		I am trying it
U' - ouu - S <u>u</u> e	<u>u</u> 't		This (inanimate)
U' - ouu - S <u>u</u> e	Tu'a <u>q</u> an / Tu'a <u>q</u> n		ball

Schwa - vowel

Letter	Word	Phonetically	Meaning
+ Schwa	Peml <u>+</u> kai		I am walking
+ Schwa	Kesispa'l <u>+</u> kik		I am washing the dishes
+ Schwa	Els <u>+</u> m		I am cutting
+ Schwa	Tuo'p <u>+</u> ti		window

Uses of the Schwa

The **schwa +** is a sound used in the Mi'kmaq Francis Smith Orthography.

Which is too short to have a letter sample so the symbol (+) is used.

To hear a **sample Schwa sound +** you can always **download L'nui'suti app** and go to the bottom right corner to hear the **Mi'kmaw Alphabet sounds** and the **schwa sound**.

1. The Schwa sound is like “e” like in roses and it's not always written in the Mi'kmaq words.
2. The Schwa will not be written in front of any Mi'kmaw word.
3. The Schwa are also written in clusters of 3 or more consonants to make them easier to read, such as Els+m , Peml+kai , Wesual+k

The difference between **Francis- Smith and Pacifique style** in some letters and sounds.

(Schwa +)

Francis-Smith style	P	T	K	Q	J	S	L	M	N	W	Y	a	a'	e	e'	i	i'	+	o	O'	U'
Pacifique style	P	T	G		Tj ch	S	L	M	N	O	i	a	a	e	e	i	i		O'	O'	O

The **J** sounds like **Tj** sounds like **ch**

Here is an example of the difference in the writing.

Francis-Smith style	Mi'kmawituk	A'tukwaqn	Klusuaqan	Wasuek	
Pacifique style	Migmewigtug	A'tugwaqan	Glusuaqan	Wasueg	