

Sm'algyax Pronunciation Guide

Location of Letter	Sm'algyax Letter	Name of Letter	Explanation of Sound	Example Word
a	a	a	similar to English 'cat'	ada 'and'
	ǎ	back a	similar to English 'but'	lǎk 'fire'
	aa	long a	long version of Sm'algyax 'a'	baa 'run'
	ǎǎ	long back a	long version of Sm'algyax 'ǎ'	lǎǎxs 'claws'
	a'a	creaky a	long version of Sm'algyax 'a' with a break in it	da'al 'but'
	ǎ'ǎ	creaky back a	long version of Sm'algyax 'ǎ' with a break in it	lǎ'ǎxsk 'seaweed'
	aw	a, w	similar to English 'cow'	awta 'porcupine'
	aaw	long a, w	long version of Sm'algyax 'aw'	aw'aaws 'curly'
	ay	a, y	similar to English 'by' or 'say'	daya 'said'
	aay	long a, y	long version of Sm'algyax 'ay'	maay 'berry'
b	b	b	similar to English 'bird'	bǎ'wis 'monkey'
d	d	d	similar to English 'dog'	daala 'money'
dz	dz	d, z	similar to English 'dads'	dzap 'make'
e	e	e	similar to English 'pen'	gyels 'mussels'
	ee	long e	long version of Sm'algyax 'e'	eesk 'promise'
	e'e	creaky e	long version of Sm'algyax 'e' with a break in it.	'ne'ent 'confirm'

g	g	g	similar to English 'get'	g̲ap 'eat'
gw	gw	g, w	similar to Sm'algyax 'g' but said with lips rounded	gw̲a'a 'this'
gy	gy	g, y	similar to Sm'algyax 'g' but said with tongue on roof of mouth	gyalg 'outside'
g̲	g̲	back g	similar to Sm'algyax 'g' but with the back of the tongue right at the back of the mouth	g̲aax 'raven'
h	h	h	similar to English 'hat'	haas 'dog'
i	i	i	similar to English 'sit'	bilhaa 'abalone'
	ii	long i	long version of Sm'algyax 'i'	dii 'hill'
	i'i	creaky i	long version of Sm'algyax 'i' with a break in it	si'it 'trying'
k	k	k	similar to English 'kin'	ksuut 'autumn'
k'	k'	hard k	Sm'algyax 'k' but has a popping quality made by pushing out extra air	k'oy 'me'
kw	kw	k, w	similar to Sm'algyax 'k' but said with lips rounded	kw̲dii 'hungry'
k'w	k'w	hard k, w	similar to Sm'algyax 'kw' but has a popping quality made by pushing out extra air	k'willi 'three'
ky	ky	k, y	similar to Sm'algyax 'k' but said with tongue on roof of mouth	kyoox 'grass'
k'y	k'y	hard k, y	similar to Sm'algyax 'ky' but has a popping sound made by pushing out extra air	k'yinam 'give'
k̲	k̲	back k	similar to Sm'algyax 'k' with the back of the tongue right at the back of the mouth	k̲andah 'skate (fish)'
k̲'	k̲'	hard back k	similar to Sm'algyax 'k̲' but has a popping quality made by pushing out extra air	k̲'aa 'cut'
l	l	l	similar to English 'lip'	laan 'fish eggs'

‘l	‘l	hard l	similar to Sm’algyax ‘l’ but has a popping quality made by pulling air in	‘lax ‘sewing needles’
ł	ł	barred l	the tongue is located as if for an ‘l’ but you make a sound as an ‘s’	łems ‘in-law
m	m	m	similar to English ‘map’	maas ‘bark’
‘m	‘m	hard m	similar to Sm’algyax ‘m’ but has a popping quality made by pulling air in	‘maḵ ‘catch’
n	n	n	similar to English ‘no’	na’ax ‘dress’
‘n	‘n	hard n	similar to Sm’algyax ‘n’ but has a popping quality made by pulling air in	‘niit ‘he, she, it’
o	o	o	similar to English ‘on’	ol ‘bear
	oo	long o	long version of Sm’algyax ‘o’	boot ‘boat’
	o’o	creaky o	long version of Sm’algyax ‘o’ with a break in it	so’ox ‘robin’
	oy	o, y	similar to English ‘toy’	k’oy ‘me’
	ooy	ooy	long version of Sm’algyax ‘oy’	sm’ooygit ‘chief’
p	p	p	similar to English ‘pat’	ptal ‘rib’
p’	p’	hard p	similar to Sm’algyax ‘p’ but has a popping quality made by pushing out extra air	p’iyaan ‘smoke’
s	s	s	a ‘filtered s’. a cross between ‘so’ and ‘show’	sah ‘day’
t	t	t	similar to English ‘tap’	tgwāh ‘glass’
t’	t’	hard t	similar to Sm’algyax ‘t’ but has a popping quality made by pushing out extra air	t’aa ‘sit’
ts	ts	t, s	similar to English ‘cats’	tskaḥ ‘herring’
ts’	ts’	hard t, s	similar to Sm’algyax ‘ts’ but has a popping quality made by pushing out extra air	ts’al ‘face’

u	u	u	similar to English 'book'	ts'u 'although'
	uu	long u	long version of Sm'algyax 'u'	buut 'boot'
	u'u	creaky u	long version of Sm'algyax 'u' with a break in it	t'u'utsk 'black'
ü	ü	dotted you	similar to Sm'algyax 'u' but said with the lips un-rounded (sometimes called a 'happy u')	wüleexs 'huckleberry'
	üü	long dotted u	long version of Sm'algyax 'ü'	yüü 'hide'
	ü'ü	creaky dotted u	long version of Sm'algyax 'u' with a break in it	
w	w	w	similar to English 'wet'	waas 'rain'
'w	'w	hard w	similar to Sm'algyax 'w" but has a popping quality made by pulling air in	'waa 'find'
w̃	w̃	dotted w	similar to English 'r' but made with the tip of the tongue at the bottom of the mouth	nnaaw̃ 'lullaby'
'w̃	'w̃	hard dotted w	similar to Sm'algyax 'w̃' but has a popping quality made by pulling air in	'w̃ah 'oolichan'
x	x	x	tongue is located as if for a 'g' but the sound is like an 'h' (this is a fairly frequent sound in German) similar to clearing your throat	xbiis 'box
y	y	y	similar to English 'yes'	yaa 'walk'
'y	'y	hard y	similar to Sm'algyax 'y' but has a popping quality made by pulling air in	'yens 'leaf'
		glottal stop	made by blocking air from coming out as in o'oh	aw'aaws 'curly

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and extend a special thank you to our financial sponsors for making this project and guide possible.

Nt'oyaxsism!



**Hasagm dm t'oyaxsa na suwilaaymsgm Goodm Nluulgm Xsgiik a na amagyet
ada gasgaaw k'yinam da k'am. Akadi da'axlga dm hałsa a gwa'a dzida nah
'waht limoomi.**

We'd like to thank our teacher Sarah Booth for her kindness and generosity. This work would not be possible without her help.



Members of The Haayk Foundation David R. Boxley, Kandi McGilton, and Gavin Hudson with their Sm'algayx teacher Sarah Booth after a feast hosted by The Haayk Foundation in Metlakatla, 2016.