

## Karuk Pronunciation Guide

There are three lines below the bold Karuk Practical Spelling. The first line shows an English word with underlined letters of how this sound is used, except in cases where there is no real English equivalent. The “r” is rolled slightly, like the Spanish *toro*; the “v” is pronounced somewhere between an English “v” and “w” sound, depending on dialect and placement; and there is no English equivalent for the “x”, probably the most challenging sound in Karuk for English speakers. It is similar to Spanish “j”: a rasping sound produced at the back of the mouth as if you were clearing your throat or gargling. The second line is a Karuk word using the initial sound from the Karuk Practical Spelling with the exceptions of the two sounds “r” and “sh”, which do not occur initially in Karuk, and the ( ' ) glottal stop. The third line is the translation of the Karuk word.

**LONG VOWELS:** Some Karuk vowels differ from each other mainly in length, for example, **a** vs. **aa** as in **as** *stone* vs. **áas** *water*, **l** vs. **ll**, as in **pírish** *grass* vs. **íirish** *floor*, and **u** vs. **uu**, as in **úchich** *milk* vs. **úuchich** *breast*.

**ACCENT MARKS:** To pronounce Karuk correctly, some syllables need to be louder than others. The usual way to write this is with ACUTE ACCENT (´) marks in many of the examples given above. Whether or not the accent is there makes a difference in the meaning of some words, for example **paah** *peppernut*, without an accent, vs. **páah** *boat*, with an accent. A few Karuk words have a special type of accent combined with a FALLING PITCH: this can be written with a CIRCUMFLEX ACCENT (^) mark, as in **pûuvish** *sack*. (Compare **púufich** *deer*, where the pitch of the accented syllable stays high instead of falling.) This type of accent is not common. A very few Karuk words, all exclamations, have nasalized vowels in them; an example is **Hãã** *yes*. Such vowels can be written with the TILDE (~).

There are two diphthongs in the Karuk language /ay/ and /oy/. Diphthongs are two vowels that glide together. Examples of words are **aay** for *grapes* and **hôoy** for *where*. Similar diphthongs in English are *eye* and *boy*.

a	aa	ch	ee	f	h
<i>f<u>a</u>ther</i>	<i>p<u>a</u>lm</i>	<i><u>ch</u>urch</i>	<i>ca<u>f</u>e</i>	<i>fo<u>u</u>r</i>	<i><u>h</u>ouse</i>
<a href="#"><u>ávansa</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>áama</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>chiimûuch</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>êeth</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>fíthih</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>hárivari</u></a>
(man)	(salmon)	(lizard)	(slug)	(foot)	(year)
i	ii	k	m	n	oo
<i>fin<u>i</u>sh</i>	<i>pol<u>i</u>ce</i>	<i><u>k</u>ick</i>	<i><u>m</u>ove</i>	<i><u>n</u>ine</i>	<i>ro<u>o</u>p</i>
<a href="#"><u>ikuk</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>íikiv</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>kachakâach</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>man'áta</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>nákish</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>ôok</u></a>
(log)	(necklace)	(bluejay)	(I don't know)	(pig)	(here)
p	r	s	sh	t	th
<i>u<u>p</u>per</i>	<i>to<u>r</u>o</i>	<i><u>s</u>ing</i>	<i><u>sh</u>ow</i>	<i>a<u>t</u>e</i>	<i><u>th</u>in</i>
<a href="#"><u>púufich</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>úruh</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>sára</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>íshkiit</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>tíik</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>thúuk</u></a>
(deer)	(egg)	(bread)	(lucky; luck)	(hand; finger)	(flicker)
u	uu	v	x	y	'
<i>pu<u>u</u></i>	<i>ru<u>u</u>e</i>	<i>"between v&amp;w"</i>	<i>"gargling"</i>	<i>y<u>e</u>s</i>	<i>"stop, as in: Oh-oh"</i>
<a href="#"><u>uxraah</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>úus</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>vishvaan</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>xáath</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>yúup</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>máh'itt</u></a>
(berry; sweet)	(pine cone/nut)	(stomach)	(grasshopper)	(eye)	(morning)

Karuk Practical Spelling Chart