

Nuuchahnulth alphabet summary • Kyuquot-Checleseht*

1. Alphabetical order

a aa c ċ č ċ̣ e ee h ḥ i ii k k^w ḳ
 ḳ^w ł ʎ ʎ̣ m ṃ n ñ o oo p p̣ q q^w s
 š t ṭ u uu w ẉ x x^w ɣ ɣ^w y ý ʔ ʔ̣

2. Sounds by place and manner

	lips	tongue tip			tongue back				throat		
plain plosives	p	t	ʎ	c	č	k	k ^w	q	q ^w		
hard plosives	p̣	ṭ	ʎ̣	ċ	č̣	ḳ	ḳ ^w			ʔ	ʔ̣
spirants		ł	s	š		x	x ^w	ɣ	ɣ ^w	ḥ	h
plain resonants	m	n		y		w					
hard resonants	ṃ	ñ		ỵ		ẉ					

high vowels i ii u uu
 mid vowels e ee o oo
 low vowels a aa

3. Letters and example words

	letter name	how it is said	word	translation
a	short a	<i>uh</i>	patpat	inboard motorboat
aa	long a	long <i>ah</i>	waa	say
c	plain cee	<i>ts</i>	caapin	sawbill duck
ċ	hard cee	explosive <i>ts</i>	ċawaak	one
č	cee wedge	<i>ch</i>	čakup	man
č̣	hard cee wedge	explosive <i>ch</i>	č̣apic	canoe
e	short e	as in <i>pet</i>	čuu wey	See you!
ee	long e	as in <i>eh</i> , and long	yuucyuučeeey	Safe travels!
h	aitch	<i>h</i>	husmin	kelp
ḥ	back aitch	like breathing on glass	ḥayu	ten
i	short i	as in <i>pit</i>	hisit	ocean sockeye
ii	long i	as in <i>ski</i> , and long	tiič	alive
k	kay	<i>k</i>	kuuk	packed lunch
k ^w	round kay	<i>k</i> with rounded lips	k ^w istuup	something different

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ḳ	hard kay	explosive <i>k</i>	ḳaaʔin	crow
ḳ ^w	hard round kay	ḳ with rounded lips	ḳ ^w iis	snow
ł	barred el	a hissed <i>l</i> , like <i>lth</i>	łuucma	woman
λ	barred lambda	<i>tl</i>	λama	house post
λ̣	hard barred lambda	explosive <i>tl</i>	λ̣isuk	white
m	em	<i>m</i>	maamaat	bird
ṃ	hard em	<i>m</i> with a catch	ṃaamiiqs	older sibling
n	en	<i>n</i>	nunuuk	sing
ṇ	hard en	<i>n</i> with a catch	huuñii	drift whale
o	short o	<i>oh</i> or <i>aw</i>	makoʔs	sell outdoors
oo	long o	long <i>oh</i> or <i>aw</i>	hinkoos	dog salmon
p	pee	<i>p</i>	paawic	nest
p̣	hard pee	explosive <i>p</i>	p̣ap̣ii	ear
q	cue	back <i>k</i>	qawii	salmonberry
q ^w	round cue	<i>q</i> with rounded lips	q ^w inii	seagull
s	ess	<i>s</i>	saasin	hummingbird
š	ess wedge	<i>sh</i>	šuu ^w aa	sugar
t	tee	<i>t</i>	tupkak	black
ṭ	hard tee	explosive <i>t</i>	ṭaṭuus	star
u	short u	as in <i>put</i>	mukmuḳ ^w	rockfish
uu	long u	as in <i>due</i> , and long	muu	four
w	double-u	<i>w</i>	witwaak	warrior
ẉ	hard double-u	<i>w</i> with a catch	suẉaaq	you
x	front ex	like a cat's hiss	xaʔuumin	pigeon
x ^w	round front ex	<i>x</i> with rounded lips	x ^w akyuu	swollen
x̣	back ex	like hissing to spit	x̣ax̣aškḳ ^w	pilot biscuit
x̣ ^w	round back ex	<i>x̣</i> with rounded lips	mu ^w x̣ ^w aškin	soapberry
y	wye	<i>y</i>	yačaa	dogfish
ỵ	hard wye	<i>y</i> with a catch	siỵaaq	me
ʔ	glottal stop	a catch, as in <i>uh-oh</i>	ʔaama	loon
ʕ	pharyngeal stop	a catch plus <i>r</i>	ʕaanis	heron