

**Spelling Manual
For
Eastern James Bay
Cree Syllabics**

Northern Dialect

Edited by:

**Luci Bobbish-Salt
and
Marguerite Mackenzie**

Cree School Board
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Cree Programs, Chisasibi, Quebec
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Introduction

People have been writing syllabics using their own style, depending on where they learned the system, which community they come from, how old they are and what pronunciation they use. This manual has been prepared to help people write the Cree syllabics in a more consistent way.

Cree Language and Culture teachers and linguists together with the Education Consultants in Cree Programs have been working toward a consistent spelling system for the Southern and for the Northern dialects for many years. The process is still ongoing and this manual will be updated periodically. There have been spelling revisions since the first Cree Lexicon was published in 1987 which have been incorporated into the newly revised lexicon, published in 2004.

Although each Cree community in the James Bay area has its own distinct style of speaking the language, there are two main dialects of Cree with different pronunciations, so there are two main ways of spelling - Northern and Southern.

Syllabics Chart - Eastern James Bay

									Finals	
▽		△	△̇	▷	▷̇	◁	◁̇		◦	"̇
e		i	ii	u	uu	a	aa		u	h
	·▽	·△	·△̇	·▷	·▷̇	·◁		·◁̇		
	we	wi	wii	wu	wuu	wa		waa		
∨	·∨	∧	∧̇	>	>̇	<	<̇	·<̇	<	
pe	pwe	pi	pii	pu	puu	pa	paa	pwaa	p	
U	·U	∩	∩̇	∪	∪̇	C	Ċ	·Ċ	c	
te	twe	ti	tii	tu	tuu	ta	taa	twaa	t	
q	·q	p	ṗ	d	ḋ	b	ḃ	·ḃ	b	ḋ
ke	kwe	ki	kii	ku	kuu	ka	kaa	kwaa	k	kw
ᑭ	·ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	·ᑭ̇	ᑭ	
che	chwe	chi	chii	chu	chuu	cha	chaa	chwaa	ch	
ᑭ	·ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	·ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇
me	mwe	mi	mii	mu	muu	ma	maa	mwaa	m	mw
ᑭ	·ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	·ᑭ̇	ᑭ	
le	lwe	li	lii	lu	luu	la	laa	lwaa	l	
ᑭ	·ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	·ᑭ̇	ᑭ	
ne	nwe	ni	nii	nu	nuu	na	naa	nwaa	n	
ᑭ	·ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	·ᑭ̇	ᑭ	
se	swe	si	sii	su	suu	sa	saa	swaa	s	
ᑭ	·ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	·ᑭ̇	ᑭ	
she	shwe	shi	shii	shu	shuu	sha	shaa	shwaa	sh	
ᑭ	·ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	·ᑭ̇	ᑭ	
ye	ywe	yi	yii	yu	yuu	ya	yaa	ywaa	y	
ᑭ	·ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	·ᑭ̇	ᑭ	
re	rwe	ri	rii	ru	ruu	ra	raa	rwaa	r	
∨	·∨	∧	∧̇	>	>̇	<	<̇	·<̇	<	
ve	vwe	vi	vii	vu	vuu	va	vaa	vwaa	v, f, ph	
ᑭ	·ᑭ	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	ᑭ	ᑭ̇	·ᑭ̇	ᑭ	
the	thwe	thi	thii	thu	thuu	tha	thaa	thwaa	th	

Part One: Dialect Differences

1.1 The syllabic chart

The full syllabic chart shows all the symbols that are used in writing Eastern James Bay Cree. Some symbols are used only in the Southern dialect, not in the Northern - as explained below.

1.2 North - South differences

Speakers from Wemindji, Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui, and sometimes Eastmain use \triangleleft, \triangleleft, \dot{c}, \dot{l}, \dot{l}, \dot{a}, \dot{h}, \dot{s} instead of ∇, \vee, u, γ, Γ, σ, γ, ν.

Southern

$\nabla\Gamma''\dot{b}^a$
 $\vee\gamma^d$
 $u\cdot\nabla''\dot{\Delta}b^a$
 $9a\cdot\triangleleft\dot{c}\dot{l}^c$
 $\gamma\dot{b}^a$
 $\Gamma\Gamma\wedge r^a$
 $\sigma\cdot\triangleleft^o$
 γr^j
 $\nu\nu\dot{s}$
 $\dot{h}\dot{b}^o$

Northern

$\triangleleft\Gamma''\dot{b}^a$
 $\triangleleft\gamma^d$
 $\dot{c}\cdot\triangleleft''\dot{\Delta}p^a$
 $\dot{b}\sigma\cdot\triangleleft\wedge\dot{l}^c$
 $\dot{l}\dot{b}^a$
 $\dot{l}\dot{l}\wedge r^a$
 $\dot{a}\cdot\triangleleft^o$
 $\dot{h}r^j$
 $\dot{s}\dot{s}\dot{s}^o$
 $\dot{h}\dot{b}^o$

The Northern speakers do not use \triangleleft, c, b, l, L, a, h, s, h but instead use \wedge, \cap, p, r, Γ, σ, r, s, \dot{h}.

Southern

$\triangleleft d\sigma\dot{h}^o$
 $c''\dot{b}\dot{h}^o$
 $b\triangleleft^c$
 $u''\dot{b}\vee^s$
 $Lr^a\cdot\dot{\Delta}b^a$
 $a\dot{h}^i$
 $\dot{h}\dot{b}^o$
 $\dot{s}\cdot\nabla\dot{h}\dot{h}^o$
 $\dot{h}''r^a\dot{h}^o$

Northern

$\wedge d\dot{a}\dot{h}^o$
 $\cap''\dot{b}\dot{h}^o$
 $p\wedge^c$
 $r''\dot{b}\triangleleft^s$
 $\Gamma r^a\sigma''\dot{\Delta}p^a$
 $\sigma\dot{l}^h$
 $r\dot{h}^o$
 $\dot{s}\cdot\triangleleft\dot{h}\dot{h}^o$
 $\dot{h}''r^a\sigma\dot{h}^o$

However, ◀ is used in both Northern and Southern dialects at the beginning of a word, and after " in VII verbs.

Southern

◀ᑎ"ᑦ
 ◀ᑎᑦᑦᑦ
 ◀ᑎᑦᑦᑦ
 ▷ᑦᑦᑦ◀ᑦ

Northern

◀ᑎ"ᑦ
 ◀ᑎᑦᑦᑦ
 ◀ᑎᑦᑦᑦ
 ▷ᑦᑦᑦ◀ᑦ

1.3 Eastmain speakers

In Eastmain, speakers use both Southern and Northern pronunciations since the community is on the boundary of the two dialect areas. These pronunciations are even evident in a single word and show up in the written form using both dialects.

1.4 ᑦ, ᑦ, ᑦ, ᑦ, ᑦ and ᑦ, ᑦ, ᑦ, ᑦ, ᑦ

Both these sets are used in writing East Cree words. In some communities speakers do not pronounce the ᑦ, ᑦ, ᑦ, ᑦ, ᑦ the same way as other communities and may want to check their spelling with the lexicon.

ᑦ ᑦ ᑦ ᑦ ᑦ
 ᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦᑦ

ᑦ ᑦ ᑦ ᑦ ᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦᑦ

1.5 Writing ᑦ at the end of a word

There is a tendency for speakers in Eastmain to pronounce ᑦ instead of ᑦ at the end of words. Special attention is needed when writing final ᑦ.

Write...

ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦ ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦ ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ

Not...

ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦ ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦ ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
 ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ

Part Three: Syllabic Finals

The syllabic finals are a small version of the last column of regular size symbols on the chart. They are used mainly at the ends of words. ʰ and ʷ and ʰ are also used in the middle of words. The syllabic finals may be used alone or in a set of two or three, but no more than three in a row are used. When there are three in a row, the last one is always ʰ.

3.1 Syllabic finals at the end of the word:

One symbol	Two symbols	Three symbols
ǎ<°	ǎ<°ʰ	ǎʰʰ<ʰ
▷ʰḅḥ	ǎʰʰ<	ʰʰʰ
ḅḅ	ḅḅ<ʰ	ḅḅʰʰ
ǎḅḅ	ḅḅḅ	▷ḅḅʰʰ
ḅḅ	▷ʰḅḅʰ	ḅḅḅ
ǎḅḅ	ʰʰḅ	ǎḅḅʰʰ
ǎḅḅ	ḅḅḅ	ǎḅḅḅ
▷ḅḅḅ	ḅḅḅ	ḅḅḅḅ
ʰḅḅ	ḅḅḅḅ	▷ḅḅḅḅ
ǎḅḅḅ	ḅḅḅ	
ʰḅḅḅ	ḅḅḅḅ	

Locative suffix

When you add the locative ending, meaning "in, at, to, on, etc", change the small <, ʕ, ʙ, ɖ, ʟ, ʎ, ʑ, ʒ, ʝ, ʞ, to big ᐱ, ᐃ, ᐆ, ᐇ, ᐉ, ᐊ, ᐋ, ᐌ.

ᑭᑭ<	ᑭᑭᐱᐱ
ᑭᑭᐅ	ᑭᑭᐃᐃᐱᐱ
ᑭᑭᐅᐅ	ᑭᑭᐆᐆᐱᐱ
ᑭᑭᐊᐊ	ᑭᑭᐉᐉᐱᐱ
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐅᐅ	ᑭᑭᐊᐊᐊᐊᐱᐱ
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐊᐊ	ᑭᑭᐉᐉᐉᐉᐱᐱ
ᑭᑭᐱᐱ	ᑭᑭᐊᐊᐱᐱ

Note that another ending which sounds exactly like the locative can be added to nouns. This is the **simulative** suffix and is translated as "like a".

ᑭᑭᐅᐅ	man	ᑭᑭᐅᐅᐱᐱ	like a man
ᑭᑭᐊᐊ	dog	ᑭᑭᐊᐊᐱᐱ	like a dog

Diminutive suffix

When you add the diminutive ending, meaning "small or young", you usually change the small syllabic <, ʕ, ʙ, ɖ, ʟ, ʎ, ʑ to big ᐱ, ᐃ, ᐆ, ᐇ, ᐉ, ᐊ, ᐋ. In most cases if there are words with t in the word, the sounds will change to ch, s to sh, some examples follow.

ᑭᑭᐊᐊ	ᑭᑭᐊᐊᐱᐱ	
ᑭᑭᐅᐅ	ᑭᑭᐅᐅᐱᐱ	
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐅᐅᐅᐅ	ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐆᐆᐆᐆᐱᐱ	
ᑭᑭᐊᐊ	ᑭᑭᐊᐊᐱᐱ	
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐅᐅ	ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐊᐊᐱᐱ	
ᑭᑭᐅᐅ	ᑭᑭᐅᐅᐱᐱ	ᑭᑭᐱᐱ
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐅᐅ	ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐊᐊᐱᐱ	
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐅᐅ	ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐊᐊᐱᐱ	
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐅᐅ	ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐊᐊᐱᐱ	ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐱᐱ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᐱᐱ

Another exception is the change of final **b** to **ʃ** in a few words:

σ^hb

σ^hʃʃ^h

Possessive suffix

When the possessive endings are added, little <, ʃ, b, d, l, ʔ, e, h, ^h become big Λ, ʃ, ʃ, d, ʃ, Γ, σ, ʃ, ʃ.

ʃʃ<

σʃʃΛ^L

Γ^hʃ

σΓ^hʃ^L

d^b

σd^ʃʃ^L

<ʃ^hd

σ<ʃ^hd^L

<ʃ^hʔ

σ<ʃ^hʔ^e

<ʃ^hʔ^e

σ<ʃ^hʔ^eσ^e

σʔ^h

σσʔ^ʃʃ^L

<ʃ^hb^h

σ<ʃ^hb^ʃʃ^L

Here is a summary of how the finals change:

	Animate	Diminutive	Locative	Possessive
	Plural			
ʃʃ<	ʃʃΛ ^h	ʃʃΛʃ ^h	ʃʃΛ ^h	σʃʃΛ ^L
ʔ ^h ʃ	ʔ ^h ʃ ^h	ʔ ^h ʃ ^h	ʔ ^h ʃ ^h	σʔ ^h ʃ ^L
<σ ^h d ^b	<σ ^h d ^ʃ ʃ ^h	<σ ^h d ^ʃ ʃ ^h	<σ ^h d ^ʃ ʃ ^h	σ<σ ^h d ^ʃ ʃ ^L
<ʃ ^h ʔ	<ʃ ^h ʔ ^h	<ʃ ^h ʔ ^h	<ʃ ^h ʔ ^h	σ<ʃ ^h ʔ ^e
>ʃ ^h	>ʃ ^h σ ^h	>ʃ ^h σ ^h	>ʃ ^h σ ^h	σ>ʃ ^h σ ^L
σʔ ^h	σʔ ^ʃ ʃ ^h	σʔ ^ʃ ʃ ^h	σʔ ^ʃ ʃ ^h	σσʔ ^ʃ ʃ ^L
<ʃ ^h b ^h	<ʃ ^h b ^ʃ ʃ ^h	<ʃ ^h b ^ʃ ʃ ^h	<ʃ ^h b ^ʃ ʃ ^h	σ<ʃ ^h b ^ʃ ʃ ^L

3.4.2 Words ending with ^d

The little ^d changes to big d when an ending is added.

	Animate	Diminutive	Locative	Possessive
	Plural			
<ʃ ^h d	<ʃ ^h d ^h	<ʃ ^h d ^ʃ ʃ ^h	<ʃ ^h d ^ʃ ʃ ^h	σ<ʃ ^h d ^L
<ʃ ^h ʔ	<ʃ ^h ʔ ^h	<ʃ ^h ʔ ^h	<ʃ ^h ʔ ^h	σ<ʃ ^h ʔ ^L
·<ʃ ^h d	·<ʃ ^h d ^h	·<ʃ ^h d ^ʃ ʃ ^h	·<ʃ ^h d ^ʃ ʃ ^h	σ·<ʃ ^h d ^L
·ʔ ^d	·ʔ ^d	·ʔ ^d ʃ ^h	·ʔ ^d ʃ ^h	σ·ʔ ^d ʃ ^L

Before Ṗ, Ṗ̇, ḍ, ḍ̇, ḃ, ḃ̇, ḅ, ḅ̇ Before Ṛ, Ṛ̇, Ṙ, Ṙ̇, Ṛ̣, Ṛ̣̇

ḂṖṖṖṖ	ḂṚṚṚṚṚ
ḂṖṖṖṖ	ḂṚṚṚṚṚ
ḂṖṖṖṖ	ḂṚṚṚṚṚ
ḂṖṖṖṖ	ḂṚṚṚṚṚ
ḂṖṖṖṖ	ḂṚṚṚṚṚ
ḂṖṖṖṖ	ḂṚṚṚṚṚ
ḂṖṖṖṖ	ḂṚṚṚṚṚ
ḂṖṖṖṖ	ḂṚṚṚṚṚ
ḂṖṖṖṖ	ḂṚṚṚṚṚ
ḂṖṖṖṖ	ḂṚṚṚṚṚ

It is sometimes difficult to hear the " sound but it is very clear when you say these pairs of words:

With " (h)

- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ

Without " (h)

- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ
- ḂṖṖṖṖ

3.6.2 " at the end of a word

At the end of a word " (h) syllabic symbol is used to mark grammatical categories such as inanimate plural of nouns, obviative of animate nouns, locative of nouns, imperative marker of verbs and in a few other places.

Inanimate plural marker

Nouns:

Singular

▷Ċ'ċ^ə
 Γʀσ"Δρ^ə
 Γ"ċ
 ħċ
 ǂ<ʀ]·Δ^ə
 ·Δħρ^ə
 ▷ʀċ

Plural

▷Ċ'ċ"^ə
 Γʀσ"Δρ^ə"
 Γ"ċ"
 ħċ"
 ǂ<ʀ]·Δ^ə"
 ·Δħρ^ə"
 ▷ʀċ"

Verbs:

Γċ^o
 <ʌʀʀ^o
 Γ"·ċ^o
 <"Ċċ^ə
 ǂċ^ə
 ʀ·ǂ·ħċ^ə
 Γʀ^ə
 ·<ħċ^o
 ·<ċ'^o

Γċ"^o
 <ʌʀʀ"^o
 Γ"·ċ"^o
 <"Ċċ"^ə
 ǂċ"^ə
 ʀ·ǂ·ħċ"^ə
 Γʀ^ə"
 ·<ħċ"^o
 ·<ċ'"^o

" (h) as a marker of Imperative verbs for second person singular forms.

σ<°	σ<"
◁Γ"Ċ°	◁Γ"Ċ"
Γσ".ḃ°	Γσ".ḃ"
Λρ.ḃΛ°	Λρ.ḃ<"
σρj	σρL"
ḡΓ°	ḡL"
·◁Λ"ገጥ	·◁Λ"ገጥ"
ገ"ገጥጥ	ገ"ገጥጥ"

Note that " (h) is used for the command forms "do it to it" and "do it to me" but not for "do it to him".

	(do it to) it	(do it to) me	(do it to) -him
ḡĊ°	ḡĊ"	ḡጥ"	ḡጥ
▷ገΛĊ°	▷ገΛጥ"	▷ገΛጥጥ"	▷ገΛጥጥ
·◁Λገ°	·◁Λጥጥ"	·◁Λጥጥ"	·◁Λጥጥ
Γጥρ.◁°	Γጥጥጥ"	Γጥጥጥጥ"	Γጥጥጥጥ
Γσ.ጥ°	Γσጥጥ"	Γσጥጥጥ"	Γσጥጥጥ

Habitual verbs

" (h) can be added to verb forms to indicate a habitual or predictable action or event.

◁" ገገገገጥጥ	ገገገገጥጥ"
ḃ" ገገገገጥጥ	ḃ" ገገገገጥጥ"
ገ ገገገገጥጥ	ገ ገገገገጥጥ"
ገገገገጥጥጥጥጥጥ	ገገገገጥጥጥጥጥጥጥጥ"

3.6.4 " (h) in Verb Suffixes

If a verb ends in ^l or ^a, these finals will change to " when ^l or ^b is added as a conjunct verb ending.

ለገገ ^a	ፈ" ለገገ"ጌ
በደገ ^a	ፈ" በደገ"ጌ
·ፈለ"በ ^l	ፊ ሰ ·ፈለ"በ"ጌ
ገህፖ ^l	ፈ" ገህፖ"ጌ
ፅለ ^a	ፈ" ፅለ"ጌ
ገጋ·ፈ ^a	ፈ" ገጋ·ፈ"ጌ
ፊደ ^a	ፈ" ፊደ"ጌ
ገ·ፈኃደ ^a	ፊ ገ·ፈኃደ"ጌ
ፈገለበ ^l	ፊ ፈገለበ"ጌ

The endings of some verbs change the final ^a to " before ^l in the plural form:

ፊ ፀፈኝ ^a	ፅፖ
ፊ ፀፈኝ"ጌ	ፅፊ ^a
ፊ ፈለበገኝ ^a	ፅፖ
ፊ ፈለበገኝ"ጌ	ፅፊ ^a
ፊ ፈጋበገ ^a	ፅፖ
ፊ ፈጋበገ"ጌ	ፅፊ ^a

Other verbs endings change the final ^a to " before ^d in the plural form:

ፊ ፀፈኝ ^a	ፈፖ
ፊ ፀፈኝ"ፈ	ፈፊፀ ^o
ፊ ፈለበገኝ ^a	ፈፖ
ፊ ፈለበገኝ"ፈ	ፈፊፀ ^o

Part Five: Syllabic Symbols at the beginning of a word

5.1 Short Δ or \triangleleft at the beginning

In many words the short Δ or \triangleleft at the beginning is not pronounced in ordinary fast speech. However, you can hear it again when a prefix is added to the beginning of a word. Make sure to write the Δ or \triangleleft , even when it is not audible or pronounced.

Δ	\triangleleft
$\Delta^{\circ}\cdot\dot{b}^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$	$\triangleleft^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$
$\Delta^{\circ}\cdot\dot{b}^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$	$\triangleleft^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$
$\Delta^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$	$\triangleleft^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$
$\Delta^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$	$\triangleleft^{\circ}\dot{b}^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$
$\Delta^{\circ}\dot{b}^{\circ}$	$\triangleleft^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$
$\Delta^{\circ}\cdot\dot{b}^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$	$\triangleleft^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$
$\Delta^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}\cdot\dot{b}^{\circ}$	$\triangleleft^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$
$\Delta^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$	$\triangleleft^{\circ}\dot{b}^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$
$\Delta^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}\cdot\triangleleft^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$	$\triangleleft^{\circ}\dot{b}^{\circ}$

5.2. $\cdot\Delta$ and \triangleright

It is often difficult to hear the difference between $\cdot\Delta$ and \triangleright . In order to decide which one to write, it is best to check with the lexicon.

$\cdot\Delta^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$	$\triangleright^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{b}^{\circ}$
$\cdot\Delta^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$	$\triangleright^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$
$\cdot\Delta^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$	$\triangleright^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$
$\cdot\Delta^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}\cdot\triangleleft^{\circ}$	$\triangleright^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$

5.3 $\cdot\Delta$, $\cdot\dot{\Delta}$ and \triangleright

Words beginning with $\cdot\Delta$, $\cdot\dot{\Delta}$ and \triangleright can sound alike before \dot{c}° , \dot{b}° and \dot{c}° .

$\cdot\Delta$	$\cdot\dot{\Delta}$
$\cdot\Delta^{\circ}\dot{b}^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$ plate	$\cdot\dot{\Delta}^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}\dot{d}^{\circ}$ them
$\cdot\Delta^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$ his body	$\cdot\dot{\Delta}^{\circ}$ his wife
	$\cdot\dot{\Delta}^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$ his bag, load, container
	$\cdot\dot{\Delta}^{\circ}\dot{c}^{\circ}$ his bladder
	$\cdot\dot{\Delta}^{\circ}$ she, he

5.6 ስ at the beginning

Often words that are written with ስ at the beginning are pronounced with ኃ or ኅ. The big ስ should still be written before በ, ጋ, ር.

Write...

ስርጊ
ስብረታዎች
ስርዎች
ስብህ

Not...

ኃርጊ
ኃብረታዎች
ኅርዎች
ኅብህ

Also before ስ...

Write...

ስሶ ስገራ
ስሶ ስሶ

Not...

ኅሶ ስገራ
ኅሶ ስሶ

5.7 ስ in the middle of a word...

Write...

ረስኝ
ረስክ
ስሶስ
ስሶስ

Not...

ረኅኝ
ረኅክ
ስኅስ
ስኅስ

6.3 Adding endings to nouns which end in ḥ°, ṣ°, ṣ°, ḥ°.

When a suffix for diminutive, locative, or possessive is added to these words, the syllabic changes from ḥ° to ḥ̣, ṣ° to ṣ̣, ṣ° to ṣ̣, and ḥ° to ḥ̣.

	Diminutive	Locative/ Simulative	Possessive
ḥḥ°	ḥḥ̣	ḥḥ̣	ḥḥ̣
ḥṣ°	ḥṣ̣	ḥṣ̣	ḥṣ̣
·ḥḥḥ°	·ḥḥḥ̣	·ḥḥḥ̣	ḥ·ḥḥḥ̣
ḥḥḥ°	ḥḥḥ̣	ḥḥḥ̣	ḥḥḥ̣
ḥḥḥḥ°	ḥḥḥḥ̣	ḥḥḥḥ̣	ḥḥḥḥ̣
ḥḥḥḥḥ°	ḥḥḥḥḥ̣	ḥḥḥḥḥ̣	ḥḥḥḥḥ̣
·ḥḥḥḥḥ°	·ḥḥḥḥḥ̣	·ḥḥḥḥḥ̣	ḥ·ḥḥḥḥḥ̣
ḥḥḥḥḥ°	ḥḥḥḥḥ̣	ḥḥḥḥḥ̣	ḥḥḥḥḥ̣

There are words which end in ḥ̣ or ḥ̣ that do not change to ḥ̣ or ḥ̣.

ḥ̣	ḥ̣	ḥ̣	ḥ̣
ḥ̣	ḥ̣	ḥ̣	ḥ̣

Part Seven: Boundaries

7. 1. Adding a personal prefix

The personal prefixes are **σ**, **Γ**, **▷**, and are added to possessed nouns and to Independent verbs. They are written joined to the word.

Nouns	Verbs
σ.Γ.Λ	Γ.Λ
σ.Γ.Λ.Λ	σ.Γ.Λ.Λ
Γ.Γ.Λ.Λ	Γ.Γ.Λ.Λ
▷.Γ.Λ.Λ	
σ.Γ.Λ.Λ.Γ.Λ	σ.Γ.Λ.Λ.Γ.Λ
Γ.Γ.Λ.Λ.Γ.σ	Γ.Γ.Λ.Λ.Γ.σ
Γ.Γ.Λ.Λ.Γ.Λ	Γ.Γ.Λ.Λ.Γ.Λ
▷.Γ.Λ.Λ.Γ.Λ	

If the word begins with **Δ** or **◁**, then add **σ**, **Γ**, or **▷**.

◁.Δ.Λ	◁.Λ
σ.◁.Δ.Λ.Λ	σ.Λ.Λ
Γ.◁.Δ.Λ.Λ	Γ.Λ.Λ
▷.◁.Δ.Λ.Λ	
Δ.Λ.Λ	Δ.Λ.Λ
σ.Δ.Λ.Λ	σ.Δ.Λ.Λ
Γ.Δ.Λ.Λ	Γ.Δ.Λ.Λ
▷.Δ.Λ.Λ	

If the word begins with **▷**, then use **ف**, **د**

▷.Λ.Λ	▷.Λ.Λ
ف.Λ.Λ	ف.Λ.Λ
د.Λ.Λ	د.Λ.Λ

Note that it is a very common mistake for children to use **J** instead of **đ** in words:

Write...

đ"Ĉ·Δ̇
đĈ<°
đʀʀʀ

Not...

J"Ĉ·Δ̇
JĈ<°
Jʀʀʀ

Nouns that are already possessed do not add these prefixes, since these prefixes are already part of the word. These are mostly names of relatives and body parts and are called dependent nouns (marked nad or nid in the lexicon)

σđʀʀʀ
ʀđʀʀʀ
▷đʀʀʀ"

σʀʀʀ^c
ʀʀʀ^c
▷ʀʀʀ^c

A few are included as dependent nouns that are not the names of relatives or body parts.

◁Ńʀ
σĈʀ
ʀĈʀ
▷Ĉʀ"

σʀ
ʀʀ
·Δ̇ʀ

ΓĈʀ
σĈʀ
ʀĈʀ
▷Ĉʀ

Ď·Δ̇^c
σ·Δ̇^c
ʀ·Δ̇^c
·Δ̇·Δ̇^c

7.2 Using a preverb

A preverb is a short word that is used before a noun or verb to indicate tense (future, past), mood, (want, can) and a few other grammatical ideas. These are written separately from the verb.

ʀʀ σ<°
ʀ" σ<°
·Δ̇" σ<°
ʌ" σ<°
ʀʌ" σ<°

ʀ σ<^c
b σ<^c b" σ<^c
·Δ̇ σ<^c ·Δ̇" σ<^c
Δ̇" σ<^c

If there is more than one, they are all separated from each other.

ʀʀ ·Δ̇" σ<°
ʀ" ·Δ̇" σ<°
ʀʌ" ʀ" σ<°
ʀʀ ʀ" σ<°

ʀ σ<^c
b ʀ σ<^c
Δ̇" ʀ" σ<^c
Δ̇" ·Δ̇" σ<^c
ʀ ʀ" σ<^c

If one or more preverbs occur after a personal prefix σ or ρ , the σ or ρ is joined to the first preverb. The other preverbs are separated.

$\sigma \cdot \dot{\Delta}''$ $\sigma <^a$	$\sigma \rho \cdot \dot{\Delta}''$ $\sigma <^a$
$\sigma \rho$ $\sigma <^a$	$\rho \rho \cdot \dot{\Delta}''$ $\sigma <^a$
$\rho \rho$ $\sigma <^a$	$\rho \wedge'' \cdot \dot{\Delta}''$ $\sigma <^a$
$\sigma \wedge''$ $\sigma <^a$	$\sigma \wedge'' \cdot \dot{\Delta}''$ $\sigma <^a$
	$\sigma \rho'' \cdot \dot{\Delta}''$ $\sigma <^a$

Other preverbs that are separated are:

$\Delta \mathcal{S}$	$\triangleleft \Delta \mathcal{S}$
$\triangleleft \cap$	$\triangleleft'' \triangleleft \cap$
$\rho \Delta \mathcal{S}$	$\mathcal{L} \Delta \mathcal{S}$
$\mathcal{b}'' \triangleleft \cap$	$\Delta \mathcal{L} \cap$
$\triangleright'' \rho$	$\cdot \triangleleft'' \rho$
$\sigma \dot{\mathcal{J}}$	$\dot{\mathcal{J}}$
$\dot{\mathcal{J}} \sigma \dot{\mathcal{J}}$	$\sigma \mathcal{L} \sigma \dot{\mathcal{J}}$

7.3 Making compound words

Two or three words can be joined together to make one new word, but there are usually spelling changes when this happens. Here are some examples:

$\sigma \rho \mathcal{J}$ $\rho \rho \sigma'' \dot{\Delta} \rho^a$	$\sigma \rho \mathcal{J} \rho \sigma'' \dot{\Delta} \rho^a$
$\triangleright \rho \dot{\mathcal{L}}^\circ$	$\triangleright \rho \dot{\mathcal{L}} \triangleright \rho \Gamma^d$
$\Delta^{\sim} \mathcal{d} \dot{\mathcal{C}}^\circ$	$\Delta^{\sim} \mathcal{d} \dot{\mathcal{C}} \cdot \triangleleft \triangleright \Delta$
$\triangleright \rho \dot{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{S}^{\sim}$	$\triangleright \rho \dot{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{S} \mathcal{J} \triangleright \rho \Gamma^d$
$\cdot \triangleleft \mathcal{b}'' \dot{\Delta} \rho \sigma^{\sim} \dot{\Delta} \rho \rho^\circ$	$\cdot \triangleleft \mathcal{b}'' \dot{\Delta} \rho \sigma \mathcal{J} \triangleright \dot{\Delta} \rho \rho^\circ$
$\triangleright \dot{\mathcal{C}} <^a \mathcal{L} \mathcal{b} \rho \sigma^\circ$	$\triangleright \dot{\mathcal{C}} <^a \sigma \mathcal{L} \mathcal{b} \rho \sigma^\circ$