

‘Iipay Aa Alphabet and Pronunciation

Vowels:

‘Iipay Aa Letter:	IPA Symbol:	Description:	Example Word:
a	a	Same as Spanish <u>papa</u> .	mat (self)
aa	a:	Same as “a” but longer.	‘aashaa (bird)
e	ə	Similar to English schwa.	‘emat (land)
ee	ɛ:	Long “e” as in <u>Ed</u> .	dineer (money)
i	ɪ	Short, lax “i” as in <u>pit</u> .	‘ewik (west)
ii	i:	Long, same as <u>bee</u> .	‘iimaa (I dance)
o	o	Short “o” as in <u>bonito</u> .	wetoch (they hit him)
oo	o:	Longer “o”.	hoo (O.K.)
u	ʊ	As in <u>put</u> , <u>foot</u> .	hemuk (three)
uu	u:	Long “u” like <u>poodle</u> .	‘emuu (wild sheep)

Consonants:

b	b	Same as English	baank (bench)
ch	tʃ	Sound in <u>church</u>	chaap (short person)
d	d/ð	[d] when word-initial, [ð] elsewhere.	duuls (candy)
f	f	Same as English	frrihool (beans)
g	g	Same as English	gayeen (chicken)
h	x	Voiceless velar fricative, like Spanish frijoles.	‘ehaa (water)

hw	x ^w	[x] quickly followed by [w], like Spanish <u>Ti</u> juana.	‘ehwatt (red)
k	k	As in <u>k</u> ick.	kum! (look!)
kw	k ^w	As in <u>q</u> ueen.	‘ekwak (deer)
l	l	As in <u>l</u> ight.	likelik (long-necked)
ll	ɬ	Voiceless [l].	llapellap (flat)
ly	ɬj	Combination of [l] and [y] as in <u>mill</u> ion [mɬjən].	lyask (light)
lly	ɬj	Voiceless “ly”.	‘ellyaa (my cousin)
m	m	As in <u>s</u> wim.	‘emii (I cry)
n	ɲ	A dental nasal, tongue against upper teeth.	‘enaah! (let’s go!)
nn	n	Alveolar nasal, like English “n”.	nnemii (he is mad)
ny	n ^j	Like <u>c</u> anyon, mañana.	‘enyaa (sun)
p	p	Like <u>s</u> pin.	chepap (four)
q	q	Uvular voiceless stop, like <u>c</u> ook.	‘equll (long)
r	ɾ	Similar to American English “r”, like in <u>t</u> rick.	weraaw (hot)
rr	r	Spanish trilled “r”.	werraaw (sharp)
s	s	A normal “s”, <u>s</u> ip, <u>s</u> ap.	‘esily (salt)
sh	ʃ	<u>S</u> hip but with more constriction.	‘eshash (pretty)
t	t̚	Voiceless dental stop.	hetat (back)
tt	t	Like English, alveolar stop.	wettuk (he jumps)
v	v	Close to Spanish pronunciation of <u>p</u> ueblo, <u>v</u> ivir.	‘ematvu (the ground)

w	w	As in <u>w</u> ar, <u>w</u> ine.	‘ewuuw (I see)
y	j	As in <u>y</u> es, <u>y</u> ellow.	yaas (he breathes)
‘	ʔ	Glottal stop.	‘u’uu (owl)
-		Used to separate syllables in series of vowels, or when [s] is followed by [x].	‘aa-ap (I lay it down) mes-hanan (stinkbug)

Sources:

Couro, Ted and Langdon, Margaret: *Let’s Talk ‘Iipay Aa, An Introduction to the Mesa Grande Diegueño Language*, Malki Museum Press, 1975

Couro, Ted and Hutcheson, Christina: *Dictionary of Mesa Grande Diegueño*, Malki Museum Press, 1973