

Table comparing the different Chinook Jargon alphabets

This is a guide to how each sound gets written in the various important alphabets that have been used for writing CJ. But be advised, each alphabet has its own preferences, so the following correspondences are not always followed.

A good example is the word for “good”, which in BC Learners Alphabet is **tlloosh**, but it’s **tlus** in the **Chinook-Peipa** alphabet of the old *Kamloops Wawa* newspaper, and it’s **lush** in the Grand Ronde alphabet of the Southern dialect. This word sounds pretty much identical in each case!

<i>(Northern dialect:)</i> BC Learners Alphabet	Chinook-Peipa ¹	<i>(Southern dialect)</i> Grand Ronde alphabet
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LETTERS:

’	<i>(no symbol)</i>	ʔ
a	a ə i.e. small circle, written clockwise	a
ae	a ə	æ
b	b	b
ch	ch ˘	ch
ch’	ch ˘	c’h
d	d —	d
e	i ˘	e
ee	i ˘	i
ei	i, ii ˘	ey
f	f \	f
g	g / i.e. long & written downwards	g
h (before a vowel)	h .	h
h (after a vowel)	h .	x
<u>h</u>	h, x ˙, *	ḫ
i	i ˘	i
j	ch ˘	dj
k	k / i.e. short & written downwards	k, k ^h
kw	k /, k followed by w/o/u	kw, k ^{hw}
k’	k’ * i.e. k with a “tick” mark	k’
k’w	k’, k’ /, * followed by w/o/u	k’w
<u>k</u>	k, k’ /, *	q, q ^h
<u>kw</u>	k/k’ / * followed by w/o/u	qw, q ^{hw}
<u>k’</u>	k’, kr /, //	q’
<u>k’w</u>	k’, kr * followed by w/o/u	q’w
l	l / i.e. short & written upwards	l
m	m (m
n	n)	n
ng	ng)	ng

¹ Naika wawa mirsi kopa David Corbett (thanks to David Corbett) for his excellent, open-access [Chinook-Peipa font](#).

o	o	o i.e. a big circle	o
oo	u	o	u
p	p	ı	p, p ^h
p'	p	ı	p'
r	r	∕ i.e. long & written upwards	r
s	s	⤿	s
t	t	-	t, t ^h
tl	tl, kl, l	-∕, ∕∕, ∕	l
tl'	tl, kl	-∕, ∕∕	t'l
tz	c	⤿	ts
tz'	c	⤿	t's
u	a, i, o, yu	ə, ɛ, ɔ, ʌ	ə
w	w	in special letters wa, wi, wo, aw, waw	
		o, o, e, o, e	w
wh	h/x	ɨ, * followed by o/u/w	xw
<u>wh</u>	h/x	ɨ, * followed by o/u/w	ɨw
y	i,	also in yu ɛ, ʌ	y
z	c	⤿	z

NUMERALS:

1	(p)	ı	1
2	(t)	-	2
3	(f)	∖	3
4	(k)	∕ i.e. short & written downwards	4
5	(r)	∕ i.e. long & written upwards	5
6	(m)	(6
7	(n))	7
8	(sh)	⤿	8
9	(s)	⤿	9
0	(o)	o i.e. a big circle	0