

HOW TO READ AND WRITE GOLDFIELDS ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES



GOLDFIELDS ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE CENTRE 2018

264 HANNAN ST,
KALGOORLIE WA 6430
(08) 9021 3788

INFO@WANGKA.COM.AU

WWW.WANGKA.COM.AU





Table of Contents

Introduction	4
The Sounds Found in Goldfields Aboriginal Languages.....	5
Online Audio Files	6
Vowels	7
Consonants	8
Consonant Phonemes found in Standard Australian English.....	8
Voiced and Unvoiced Consonants	8
Phonemes Uncommon in Standard Australian English.....	9
Consonants table	10
Features of the Goldfields Languages	10
Cundeelee Wangka Alphabet	13
Kaalamaya Alphabet	14
Kuwarra Alphabet	15
Ngaanyatjarra Alphabet	16
Ngadju Alphabet	17
Ngalia Alphabet.....	18
Maduwongga Alphabet	19
Manytjilytjarra Alphabet	20
Mirning Alphabet	21
Pintupi Alphabet	22
Pitjantjatjarra Alphabet.....	23
Tjupan Alphabet.....	24
Wangkatja Alphabet.....	25
Warlpiri Alphabet.....	26
Yankunytjatjarra Alphabet	27
Glossary	28
Goldfields Languages Map.....	30





Introduction

Aboriginal languages were traditionally oral languages. These languages are very rich and dynamic with complex verb and pronoun systems. The languages function quite differently to English with some sounds not commonly found in English, a different sentence structure and with word meanings that come from a life lived on the land. These word meanings may not correlate exactly with the English word meaning.

In recent years, Aboriginal language speakers and linguists have worked together to record the languages and analyse the sounds (phonemes) in order to determine the best orthography (alphabet) for each language. Languages that exist side-by-side may have some different sounds. For example, one language may use a dental sound best represented by the 'tj' letters, such as pronounced in the word '**this**' and a neighbouring language may have a dental sound best represented by the letters 'th' and pronounced like in the word '**that**'. English has a number of dental sounds and the same letters, 'th', are used to represent the variety of these dental sounds. For example: '**this**, **that**, **three**, **thistle**'.

The development of standardised orthographies is essential so that there can be standard spelling for the words. A great number of place, language, and nationality names were written before standardised spelling systems were developed and this has led to non-standard names. Goldfields names such as Tjupan (Jupan), Cundeelee Wangka (Kandili Wangka), Ngadju (Ngaju) and Widgiemooltha (Wijimultja). Those names are sociolinguistically determined and the speech communities have requested they stay like that for the future.

This book provides the reader with the standard orthography for each of the languages found in the Goldfields Region of WA.

Sue Hanson

Senior Linguist

Nov 2018

Goldfields

Aboriginal Language Centre

Wangka kanyira ngalipirniku

PRESERVING OUR LANGUAGES FOR ALL OF US





The Sounds Found in Goldfields Aboriginal Languages

This book contains the orthography (alphabet) of the Goldfields Aboriginal languages, as of 2018. Studying the orthography chart will assist the reader to identify the sounds in the language. Practising saying the sounds over and over and listening to them in oral language is the best way to train the brain to identify the sounds you are trying to learn. To learn a language, the brain needs to grow new tissue to process the sounds. If at first it seems hard to hear or produce a sound, keep at it because the brain will grow so that in a few months, you can easily hear and reproduce the new sound.

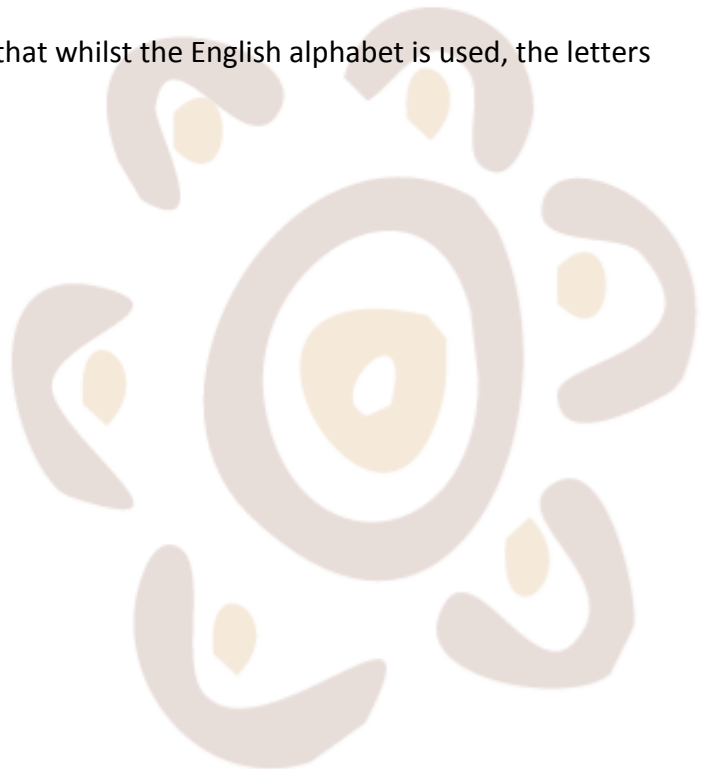
Check the consonants table to learn the place of articulation to see where the sound is pronounced in the mouth.

The Goldfields Aboriginal languages are actually very easy to read and write because each letter correlates to one sound and it never changes. This means the words can be 'sounded-out' in every instance.

English letters change sound according to other letters around them. For example, 'kit' changes to 'kite' with the addition of an 'e' at the end of the word.

Other English words can never be sounded-out and the pronunciation must be memorised. For example, the words 'women, thoroughly' and 'received' can not successfully be sounded-out and the pronunciation must be memorised.

The most important thing to remember is that whilst the English alphabet is used, the letters may represent a different sound.





Online Audio Files

Audio files for each alphabet can be found on the Wangka: Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre website at www.wangka.com.au

On the Wangka website, click on the letters to hear the sound and an example word with this sound in it. Each word is pronounced three times to give the listener time to say the word and learn it. Go back to these audio files and play them over and over until you feel you can hear and say the sound correctly.

The audio files can be found on the www.wangka.com.au website under the tab 'Resources' on the home screen. Hover over 'Resources' for a drop down menu. Click on the 'Guide to Goldfields Languages' selection on the drop down menu. Then choose the language you are looking for. Here how to find the audio files again:

1. Go to the www.wangka.com.au website.
2. Locate at the **main menu** at the top of the page and locate the '**Resources**' heading.
3. Hover your cursor over '**Resources**' till the dropdown menu appears.
4. Choose and click on '[How to Read and Write Goldfields Languages](#)'.
5. Select the **language** you would like to hear from the menu.





Vowels

Goldfields languages all have the same vowels. There are three short and three long vowel phonemes. The short vowel sounds, a, i, u, are common. The longer vowel sounds, aa, ii, uu, are much less common and often only found in a few words.

The vowel sounds never change. The letters always represent the same sound. The long vowel sounds are pronounced about one and a half to twice as long as the short vowels. For example, the vowel 'a' which is pronounced like the English 'ah' in the word *kaja* 'son' is a short sound. The vowel 'aa' which is pronounced like the English 'aah' in the word *kaanka* 'crow' is a long vowel sound.

Very occasionally there are other vowel sounds that appear in the languages such as an 'o' sound when the word 'yuwa' is pronounced with a very accentuated ending that sounds like 'yuwooooo'. These sounds are so rare that they are not recorded in the vowel inventory.

Here is a table which shows the place the vowels are pronounced in the mouth.

	front	central	back
high	i , ii		u , uu
low		a , aa	

- a short vowel as in English 'mother'.
- aa long vowel as in English 'father' and 'pasta'. The sound held longer.
- i short vowel as in English 'sit'.
- ii long vowel as in English 'bee' and 'machine'. The sound held longer.
- u short vowel as in English 'put' and 'foot'
- uu long vowel as in English 'flute' and 'boot'. The sound held longer.





Consonants

There are between 16-20 consonant phonemes found in the Goldfields languages. This part of the book will explain consonant sounds by comparing the sounds to those found in Standard Australian English (SAE).

Consonant Phonemes found in Standard Australian English

Goldfield languages have some consonant phonemes that are pronounced the same as in SAE. These are:

j	as in 'jam'
l	as in 'light'
m	as in 'mother'
n	as in 'neck'
r	as in 'car'
y	as in 'yellow'
w	as in 'water'



Voiced and Unvoiced Consonants

Another set of phonemes confuses many SAE speakers. These are commonly referred to as the voiced and unvoiced set. The **voiced** phonemes are b, k and d. These sounds are pronounced with quite a lot of voice. The **unvoiced** phonemes are p, g and t. These are pronounced with less voice and more air. In the English language, these are all considered different phonemes. For example, 'pig' and 'big' are two different words.

In the Goldfields languages, the two sets of phonemes are heard and used as one set. So, p-b are heard and pronounced as one phoneme, g-k are heard and pronounced as one phoneme and t-d are heard and pronounced as one phoneme. For a Goldfields Aboriginal language speaker, 'pig' and 'big' are thought to be the same word.

Words may have the same phoneme in a couple of places. For example, the word **karlkurla** 'silky pear fruit' has the phoneme represented by **k** in two places. At the start of the word the 'k' is more voiced, like English 'g'. Then in the middle of the word, the 'k' is less voiced, like English 'k'. However, these are both the same phoneme, with the initial 'k' more voiced and every subsequent 'k' less voiced.

Linguists studying the Goldfields languages have found that the b, g and d phonemes are used around 30% of the time and p, k and t used around 70% of the time. Thus, the unvoiced letters or graphemes, p, g and t are used in these languages.





Example:

paarpakan means 'flying' in the Maduwongga language. The 'p' phoneme is more voiced in the beginning of the word and less voiced in the middle of the word. The word sounds like 'baarpakan'.

Occasionally, Pitjantjatjarra and Yankunytjatjarra 'p' and 't' phonemes can be voiced especially in the middle of the word. This is a feature of these languages and only present in some words.

Phonemes Uncommon in Standard Australian English

There are phonemes (sounds) found in the Goldfields languages that do not correlate directly to any SAE alphabet sounds. These phonemes are written using two letters to represent the one phoneme. These phonemes are ly, ng, ny, rl, rn, rr, rt and tj. The closest examples in English of these phonemes are:

ly as in SAE 'million'

ng as in SAE 'sing'

ny as in SAE 'onion'

rl as in American English dialect 'curl'

rn as in American English dialect 'barn'

rr as in Scottish English dialect 'car' The phoneme is tapped mid word and trilled word end

rt as in American English dialect 'cart'

tj as in 'this' but the tongue does not go between the teeth





Consonants table

This consonant table indicates the place of articulation and the manner of articulations of each consonant phoneme. 'Place of articulation' is where the action happens in the mouth. 'Manner of articulation' is the way the air is made to pronounce the phoneme.

		Place of Articulation					
		Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex	Alveopalatal	Velar
Manner of Articulation	Stops	p	tj/th	t	rt		k
	Nasals	m		n	rn	ny	ng
	Laterals			l	rl	ly	
	Rhotics			rr	r		
	Glides	w				y	
	Approximants					j	

Features of the Goldfields Languages

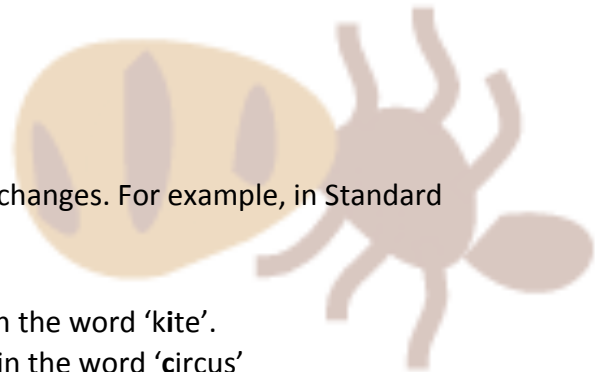
1. Each phoneme is always pronounced the same

Each letter always represents the same sound and never changes. For example, in Standard Australian English:

The 'i' letter in the word 'kit' is produced like /ai/ sound in the word 'kite'.

The 'c' letter in the word 'cup' is produced like /s/ sound in the word 'circus'

However, Aboriginal languages consonants and vowels always have only one sound which makes these languages very easy to learn to read. For example:





/a/ sound in the word 'yapu', meaning hill or rock. It sounds like the /a/ as in English word 'father' and in every word it sounds the same.

2. Words follow a regular consonant and vowel pattern

Each Goldfields language word can be broken into syllables. Each syllable always has the pattern of sounds which are consonant-vowel (CV) or less commonly, consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC). Remember, two letters are used to represent the one phoneme (sound) and these are ny, ng, ly, rr, tj, th, rt, rn, rl. These two-letter combinations are counted as one consonant as they represent one consonant sound.

'hand'	mara	ma/ra CV+CV	consonant+vowel/consonant+vowel
'home'	ngurra	ngu/rra CV+CV	
'anthill'	lungku	lung/ku CVC+CV	
'cold clouds'	jurntal	jurn/tal CVC+CVC	

3. Some two-letter consonants represent a single phoneme

The consonants ng, ny, rl, rt, rr, rn, ly, tj, th consist of two letters but they represent **a single sound**. They represent a single phoneme (sound).

The vowels aa, ii, and uu consist of two letters but they represent **a single sound**.

4. Word stress patterns

Goldfield languages almost always place the main stress on the first syllable of the word. In SAE, the stress in the word must be learnt and can change, depending on how the word is used.





For example, the word 'unhappy' can be pronounced as **unhappy** when the speaker wants to emphasise that they are no longer happy. Or it can be pronounced **unhappy** when the speaker wants to emphasise the feeling they are experiencing. Consider the slight difference in meaning between these two sentences when the emphasis in 'unhappy' is changed:

I saw the new bag I purchased was now on sale for half price and I was very **unhappy**.

I saw the new bag I purchased was now on sale for half price and I was very **unhappy**.

5. Sentence Patterns

The English language's sentence pattern is subject + verb + object (SVO). The order of words in an English sentence is very important to indicate who is doing what and to whom.

The sentence pattern in Goldfields Aboriginal languages is less strict and in fact the words can be placed in any order because suffixes are used to indicate which word is the subject and object. This is referred to as a 'free word order'.

However, there is a preferred sentence pattern of subject + object + verb (SOV) used by most Goldfields languages.

Sometimes, language speakers will use the English word pattern in a language sentence and this is considered a part of contemporary evolution in language. It is neither right nor wrong, but how the speaker chooses to speak.





Cundeelee Wangka Alphabet

<p><i>Cundeelee Wangka</i> Alphabet Chart</p> <p><small>Ngalya Foundation a language, a people, a place, a story www.ngalya.com.au</small></p>			
<p>a</p>  <p>tjamu grandfather</p>	<p>aa</p>  <p>kaarnka crow</p>	<p>i</p>  <p>impu spider</p>	<p>ii</p>  <p>wiika wild cat</p>
<p>k</p>  <p>kapi water</p>	<p>l</p>  <p>lirru snake</p>	<p>ly</p>  <p>ngalya forehead</p>	
<p>m</p>  <p>mara hand</p>	<p>n</p>  <p>nani rabbit</p>	<p>ng</p>  <p>ngukurn egg</p>	<p>ny</p>  <p>nyina sit</p>
<p>p</p>  <p>parna earth</p>	<p>r</p>  <p>runkarnu striking</p>	<p>rl</p>  <p>marlu kangaroo</p>	<p>rn</p>  <p>purru stick</p>
<p>rr</p>  <p>wirra coolamon</p>	<p>rt</p>  <p>warta tree</p>	<p>t</p>  <p>tari ankle</p>	<p>tj</p>  <p>tjitji child</p>
<p>u</p>  <p>kuka meat</p>	<p>uu</p>  <p>yuu windbreak</p>	<p>w</p>  <p>waru fire</p>	<p>y</p>  <p>yapu rock</p>





Kaalamaya Alphabet


<p><i>Kaalamaya</i> Alphabet Chart</p> <p><i>Goldfields</i> Aboriginal Language Centre walingka kumpira ngalpiniraku Indigenous Language Centre For All 187 44</p>			
<p>a</p> <p>kata head</p>	<p>aa</p> <p>thaa mouth</p>	<p>i</p> <p>jinkamula Sturt desert pea</p>	<p>ii</p> <p>miil eye</p>
<p>j</p> <p>jina foot</p>	<p>k</p> <p>kapi water</p>	<p>l</p> <p>mula nose</p>	<p>ly</p> <p>julyku south</p>
<p>m</p> <p>mayi food</p>	<p>n</p> <p>nanpa feather</p>	<p>ng</p> <p>ngurany bag</p>	<p>ny</p> <p>kumpuny cook</p>
<p>p</p> <p>punku star</p>	<p>r</p> <p>mara hand</p>	<p>rl</p> <p>jirllkamata echidna</p>	<p>rn</p> <p>kapurn man</p>
<p>rr</p> <p>kurrkurn elbow</p>	<p>rt</p> <p>kartarr spider</p>	<p>t</p> <p>tumpari quandong</p>	<p>th</p> <p>thalanj tongue</p>
<p>u</p> <p>ngarnku beard</p>	<p>uu</p> <p>kuul school</p>	<p>w</p> <p>wiyarl moon</p>	<p>y</p> <p>yalintharra north</p>





























Kuwarra Alphabet

Kuwarra Warrarta
Alphabet Chart



a  thamu grandpa	aa  kaaruka crow	i  nguri tawny frogmouth	ii  thiina there	u  kuka meat
uu  kuurnthula sucking it	k  kapi water	l  lirru snake	m  mulkurtu hand	n  narrka chest
p  paruka earth	r  runkala throwing	t  tari ankle	w  wangu dog	y  yapu rock
tj  tjuni stomach	ng  ngampu egg	ny  nyinyji spear	rr  wirra coolamon	rl  karla fire
rt  pirti hole in the ground	rn  purni horse	ly  lalypu sleeping hollow	th  thaa mouth	





Ngaanyatjarra Alphabet

 			
a  arl kara axe	aa  ka arnka crow	i  ka pi water	ii  nyii nyii finch
k  ka ta head	l  li rru snake	ly  mu ly a nose	m  mi rrka food
n  na ni rabbit	ng  ng ampu egg	ny  ny arlpi leaf	p  pa pa dog
r  ra pita rabbit	rl  ka rl i boomerang	rn  wa rn tu blanket	rr 3 ma rnku rr pa three
rt  wa rt a tree	t  ti rnka goanna	tj  tj itji child	u  wa ru firewood
uu  nu upa ly a new	w  wa ti man	y  ye llo Ro bin y ini name	






Ngadju Alphabet























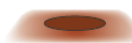




Ngalia Alphabet



Ngalia

Alphabet Chart

a  tj amu grandpa	aa  ka rnka crow	i  pi wi tawny frogmouth	ii  yi ili fig	u  ku ka meat
uu  ku ulki nest	k  ka pi water	l  li pun mushroom	m  ma ra hand	n  na mpu skink
p  pa pa dog	r  ra tja moon	t  ta li sandhill	w  wa rta stick	y  ya pu rock
tj  tji tji child	ng  nga lya forehead	ny  nya lpa old person	rr  kirr kirr grit	rl  tir lirl hawk
rt  pir ti hole in the ground	rn  pur ni horse	ly  mu lya nose		





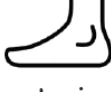
Maduwongga Alphabet



Wangka kanyira ngalipirniku
PRESERVING OUR LANGUAGES FOR ALL OF US

Maduwongga

Alphabet Chart

a  waru fire	aa  tjaa mouth	i  mayi food	ii  yiiku face	j  jina foot
k  kaparli grandmother	l  lunku anthill	ly  milyimilyi blanket	m  marlu kangaroo	n  HERE nanagata here
ng  ngalya face	ny  minyma woman	p  purni horse	r  tari ankle	rl  purlka big
rn  pirni many	rr  lirru snake	rt  murti knee	t  tanti egg	tj  tjutju sister
u  kuka meat	uu  ruukuli think	w  wipu tail	y  yaril red	Produced with assistance from  Australian Government Indigenous Languages Support

Produced by Wangka: Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre





Manytjilytjarra Alphabet

<p><i>Manytjilytjarra</i> Alphabet Chart</p> <p>Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Nyangka kunyira ngalpirniika Ngangkari Koori Community Park Rd, NT</p>			
<p>a</p> <p>kutjarra two</p>	<p>aa</p> <p>jaa mouth</p>	<p>i</p> <p>mirrka food</p>	<p>ii</p> <p>jiiltjil blister</p>
<p>j</p> <p>junta lap</p>	<p>k</p> <p>karla head</p>	<p>l</p> <p>milji nail</p>	<p>ly</p> <p>mulya nose</p>
<p>m</p> <p>mankurr many</p>	<p>n</p> <p>nani little girl</p>	<p>ng</p> <p>ngarnkurr beard</p>	<p>ny</p> <p>nyanka neck</p>
<p>p</p> <p>pina ear</p>	<p>r</p> <p>yukuri grass</p>	<p>rl</p> <p>karlkurla silky pear</p>	<p>rn</p> <p>murnijilka echidna</p>
<p>rr</p> <p>lirri throat</p>	<p>rt</p> <p>murti knee</p>	<p>t</p> <p>tarka bone</p>	<p>tj</p> <p>tjantji egg</p>
<p>u</p> <p>pulku heel</p>	<p>uu</p> <p>wuukartu honeyant</p>	<p>w</p> <p>wirtapi back</p>	<p>y</p> <p>yanangu body</p>





Mirning Alphabet

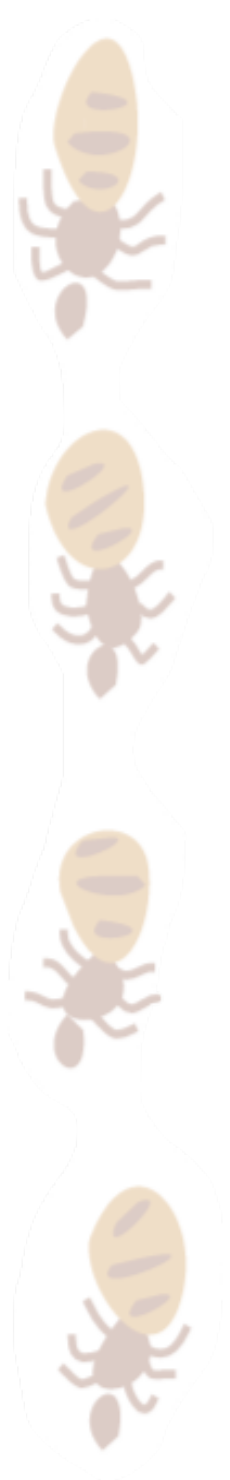
The work on this language will begin in 2019 and this book will be updated at that time.





Pintupi Alphabet

<p><i>Pintupi</i> Alphabet Chart</p> <p><i>Goldfields</i> Aboriginal Languages Centre <i>Wangkajika ngalyirniika</i> PRESERVING OUR LANGUAGES FOR ALL OF US</p>			
<p>a</p> <p>kata head</p>	<p>aa</p> <p>kaaruka crow</p>	<p>i</p> <p>milpinpa nail</p>	<p>ii</p> <p>tii spark</p>
<p>k</p> <p>kartiri teeth</p>	<p>l</p> <p>lala meat</p>	<p>ly</p> <p>yilyka axe</p>	<p>m</p> <p>marlu kangaroo</p>
<p>n</p> <p>nama ant</p>	<p>ng</p> <p>ngurra house</p>	<p>ny</p> <p>nyiku elbow</p>	<p>p</p> <p>parna earth</p>
<p>r</p> <p>runyu damper</p>	<p>rl</p> <p>karlaya emu</p>	<p>rn</p> <p>ngarnurti turkey</p>	<p>rr</p> <p>tarrka bone</p>
<p>rt</p> <p>kartalpa hole</p>	<p>t</p> <p>tiwirrpa honey ant</p>	<p>tj</p> <p>tjaa mouth</p>	<p>u</p> <p>wulkumanu women</p>
<p>uu</p> <p>yuu windbreak</p>	<p>w</p> <p>wakari meat</p>	<p>y</p> <p>yangkuru ear</p>	





Pitjantjatjarra Alphabet

<i>Pitjantjatjarra</i> Alphabet Chart			
a apu stone	aa kaaruka crow	i ini name	ii nyiiinyii finch
k kuka meat	l langka blue-tongue lizard	ly mulya nose	m mara hand
n ninu bilby	ng ngurra home	ny nyuntu you	p papa dog
r waru wood	rl karlaya emu	rn purnu splinter	rr mirrka food
rt nyirtayira boy	t tili flame	tj tjuni stomach	u urru hair
uu yuu windbreak	w wati man	y yurnpa face	





Tjupan Alphabet





Wangkatja Alphabet

			
a 	aa 	i 	ii 
k 	l 	ly 	m 
n 	ng 	ny 	p 
r 	rl 	rn 	rr 
rt 	t 	tj 	u 
uu 	w 	y 	





Warlpiri Alphabet

<p><i>Warlpiri</i> Alphabet Chart</p> <p>Goldfields Aboriginal Languages Centre warrarla karriya ngalpirintu PROVIDING OUR LANGUAGES FOR ALL OF US</p>			
<p>a</p>  <p>karlaya emu</p>	<p>aa</p>  <p>naariya horse</p>	<p>i</p> <p>1</p> <p>jinta one</p>	<p>ii</p>  <p>wiirlpa star</p>
<p>j</p> <p>jajaja grandmother</p>	<p>k</p>  <p>kuyu meat</p>	<p>l</p>  <p>laja hole</p>	<p>ly</p>  <p>mulyu nose</p>
<p>m</p>  <p>marlu plains kangaroo</p>	<p>n</p>  <p>nini bilby</p>	<p>ng</p>  <p>ngipiri egg</p>	<p>ny</p>  <p>nyinarntu honeyant</p>
<p>p</p>  <p>papingi wild orange</p>	<p>r</p>  <p>rangarrpa dawn</p>	<p>rd</p>  <p>rduku-rduku chest</p>	<p>rr</p>  <p>lirra mouth</p>
<p>rl</p>  <p>parltu newborn</p>	<p>rn</p>  <p>jarntu dog</p>	<p>rt</p>  <p>yarti pen</p>	<p>t</p>  <p>tika body fat</p>
<p>u</p>  <p>yuka grass</p>	<p>uu</p>  <p>puurn spoon</p>	<p>w</p>  <p>wati man</p>	<p>y</p>  <p>yuurnpa bundle</p>





Yankunytjatjara Alphabet

<p><i>Yankunytjatjara</i> Alphabet Chart</p> <p>Goldfields Aboriginal Languages Centre Wangka kanyira ngalpirniku PRESERVING OUR LANGUAGES FOR ALL OF US</p>			
<p>a</p>  <p>apu stone</p>	<p>aa</p>  <p>kaaruka crow</p>	<p>i</p>  <p>ini name</p>	<p>ii</p>  <p>nyiiinyii finch</p>
<p>k</p>  <p>kuka meat</p>	<p>l</p>  <p>langka blue-tongue lizard</p>	<p>ly</p>  <p>mulya nose</p>	<p>m</p>  <p>mara hand</p>
<p>n</p> <p>nanytju horse</p>	<p>ng</p>  <p>ngurra home</p>	<p>ny</p>  <p>nyuntu you</p>	<p>p</p>  <p>papa dog</p>
<p>r</p>  <p>waru wood</p>	<p>rl</p>  <p>karlaya emu</p>	<p>rn</p>  <p>purnu splinter</p>	<p>rr</p> <p>mirrka vegetable food</p>
<p>rt</p>  <p>nyirtayira boy</p>	<p>t</p>  <p>tarrka ankle</p>	<p>tj</p>  <p>tjalku bilby</p>	<p>u</p>  <p>ula boy</p>
<p>uu</p>  <p>yuu windbreak</p>	<p>w</p>  <p>wati man</p>	<p>y</p>  <p>yuru hair</p>	





Glossary

alveolar: It refers to the sound made by the blade of the tongue or tip and blade of the tongue.

alveopalatal: refers to a sound made by the front of the tongue a little in advance of the palatal articulatory area.

American English Dialect: The English language as it is spoken in the US. The main differences between British and American English are spelling of some vocabularies like *color* (USA) and *colour* (British); collective nouns like *music band* (USA) and *music team* (British); auxiliary verbs like *Should we go now?* (USA) and *Shall we go now?* (British); regular past tense suffix -ed is commonly used in American English like *burned*. Where as -t is used in irregular tense endings in British English such in *burnt*.

approximant: refers to the manner of articulation and corresponds to the frictionless continuant sounds. E.g. 'j'

bilabial: refers to a sound made by the coming together of both lips. E.g. 'm'

consonant: One of the speech sounds or letters of the alphabet that is not a vowel. Consonants are pronounced by stopping the air from flowing easily through the mouth, especially by closing the lips or touching the teeth with the tongue. Consonants include b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z, rl, ly, rn, ny, ng, rr, rt, tj.

dental: refers to a sound made by the tongue tip and rims against or between the teeth. E.g. 'tj'

glide: A term used in phonetics to refer to a transitional sound as the vocal organs move towards or away from an articulation. E.g. 'y'

grapheme: A grapheme is the written representation of phoneme. It is the written letters used to represent a sound.

lateral: refers to any sound where the air escapes around one or both sides of a closure made in the mouth. E.g. 'l'

manner of articulation: The configuration and interaction of the articulators, speech organs such as the tongue, lips, and palate, when making a speech sound. The way in which the sound is made. E.g. stop, nasal, lateral, rhotic, glide and approximant

nasals: refers to sounds produced while the soft plate is lowered to allow an audible escape of air through the nose. E.g. 'ng'

orthography: The conventional alphabet and spelling system of a language.

phoneme: The sounds heard in a language.





place of articulation: The place a sound is made in the mouth and throat. Where the constrictions and obstructions of air occur in order to make that sound.

plosive: refers to a sound made when a complete closure in the vocal tract is suddenly released; the air pressure which had built up behind the closure rushes out with an explosive sound. E.g. 'p'

retroflex: refers to a sound made when the tip of the tongue is curled back in the direction of the front part of the hard plate. E.g. 'rt'

rhotic: A term used in English phonology referring to dialects or accents where /r/ is pronounced following a vowel, as in *car* and *cart*. Used in the American dialect of English.

Scottish English Dialect: The varieties of English spoken in Scotland. In Scottish English /r/ is typically pronounced as a trill, which is described as a rolling rr. Or as a tap in the middle of a word.

Standard Australian English (SAE): The dialects of English spoken in Australia by people who are born and raised in this country and also by those who immigrate during childhood. It is distinguished from other English dialects primarily by its vowel phonology.

stop: refers to any sound which is produced by a complete closure in the vocal tract, and thus traditionally includes the class of plosives. E.g. 't'

stress: A term used in phonetics to refer to the degree of force used in producing a syllable.

voiced phoneme: A voiced sound/phoneme is one in which the vocal folds vibrate. E.g. 'b'

unvoiced phoneme: An unvoiced sound/phoneme is one in which vocal folds do not vibrate. E.g. 'p'

velar: refers to sound made by the back of the tongue against the soft palate. E.g. 'k'

vowel: A speech sound produced when the breath flows out through the mouth without being blocked by the teeth, tongue, or lips. They are a, aa, i, ii, u, uu in Goldfields Aboriginal languages.





Goldfields Languages Map

The languages names on this map are only indicative of location and may not represent the traditional location.

The language, 'Yankuntjatjarra' is placed on the map to indicate speakers live in the region but it is not placed on the traditional land of the Yankuntjatjarra people as this is in South Australia.

