

O'otham Orthography

Alphabet		O'otham Sound	English Sound
1	A, a	<u>a</u> sh - laugh	wa <u>s</u>
2	B, b	<u>b</u> an - coyote	<u>b</u> ear
3	Ch, ch	<u>ch</u> uchul - chicken	<u>ch</u> icken
4	D, d	ju <u>d</u> om - bear	<u>d</u> eer
5	<u>D</u> , <u>d</u>	ma <u>d</u> - mother's child	stoppe <u>d</u>
6	E, e	<u>e</u> sh - chin	<i>Distinct O'otham sound</i>
7	G, g	<u>g</u> a:th - gun	<u>g</u> un
8	H, h	<u>h</u> u:ñ - corn	<u>h</u> orse
9	I, i	i <u>p</u> u <u>d</u> - dress	f <u>i</u> sh
10	J, j	<u>J</u> u:kam - Mexican/Hispanic	<u>j</u> uice
11	K, k	<u>k</u> e:k - standing	<u>k</u> ite
12	L, l	<u>l</u> u:l <i>s</i> i - candy	<i>Spanish (r)</i>
13	M, m	<u>m</u> u:val - fly/bee	<u>m</u> oney
14	N, n	<u>n</u> a:k - ear	<u>n</u> achos
15	<u>Ñ</u> , <u>ñ</u>	<u>ñ</u> e:ñ - tongue	pi <u>ñ</u> ion
16	O, o	<u>o</u> :g - father	<u>s</u> aw
17	P, p	<u>p</u> a:n - bread	<u>p</u> ottery
18	S, s	<u>s</u> -he:pith - cold	<u>s</u> oup
19	Sh, sh	<u>sh</u> u: <u>sh</u> k - shoe	<i>Tongue touches roof of mouth</i>
20	Th, th	<u>th</u> othoñ - ant	<u>th</u> row
21	U, u	<u>u</u> 'us - sticks	<u>M</u> oon
22	V, v	<u>v</u> onam - hat	<u>v</u> ote
23	W, w	<u>w</u> ippo - eyelashes	<u>w</u> ater
24	Y, y	<u>y</u> a:v - key	<u>y</u> ellow

O'otham Vowels

	Vowels	O'otham Sound	English Sound
1	A, a	<u>a</u> sh – laugh	F <u>a</u> ther
		a:li – baby añilo – ring asuga – sugar auppa – cottonwood	
2	E, e	<u>e</u> sh – chin	Own distinct O'otham sound
		e'es – plants e:kthag – shadow elthag – skin esh – chin	
3	I, i	<u>i</u> puḍ – dress	F <u>i</u> sh
		i'iks shu:shk – tennis shoe i'ispul – spurs ipuḍ – dress i:vak – spinach	
4	O, o	<u>o</u> :g – father	S <u>a</u> w
		on – salt o:o – bone(s) o'hon – letter, book, magazine o:og – tears	
5	U, u	<u>u</u> 'us – sticks	M <u>oo</u> n
		uv – girl u:k hi'himtham – airplane u'u – bullet uvig/uhig – bird	

Diphthongs

Combination sounds / Go:k Eve:m Kaithag

	Go:k Eve:m Kaithag	<u>O'othamach</u>	O'otham Words	Milganach
1	ai	(sounds like 'eye') h <u>ai</u>	hai bai kai	break cooked/ripe seed
2	ei	(sounds like '____') b <u>ei</u> <i>O'otham unique sound</i>	bei ei kei	to get to plant to stand
3	ia	(sounds like 'yeah') m <u>ia</u>	mia bia ñia	near to get helping/spoon food to wake
4	io	(sounds like 'ee yaw') h <u>iosik</u>	hiosik tha:pio u:pio	to bloom/flower to iron skunk
5	iu	(sounds like 'ee you') sveg <u>ium</u>	svegium giumtham biuk	pink match hungry (plural)
6	oi	(sounds like 'boy') k <u>oi</u>	koi voi shoig	to sleep to lay/lie poor
7	ua	(sounds like 'wa') k <u>ua</u>	kua hua suam	forehead basket brown, tan, yellow or orange
8	ui	(sounds like 'we') k <u>ui</u>	kui wui kuinth	tree across from count

Diacritics

Symbol	Description of sound	O’otham	Milgan sound
• • colon	A vowel before • , is elongated or lengthened.	ke:k - stand vo:g - road ko:sh - asleep vo:k - stomach	
, apostrophe	, Breaks word, short break (glottal stop) between letters.	a’al - children u’u - bullets je’e - mother e’es - plants	Button
~ tilde	(~) on top n makes the ny sound.	ñe’e - singing ñui - buzzard ñe:ñ - tongue ñeithakuḍ - mirror	Canyon Pinion
• period	(•) under the d makes the t sound.	hujḍ - lizard thaikuḍ - chair amjiḍ - from jeved - land/earth	But
— dash	(—) after an S , (s-) is used to make the h sound, or when followed by ch (s-ch).	s-h	s-ch
		S-hekig - happy S-hotham - hurry S-hassig - to be difficult S-havk - to be light S-he:pith - cold S-ho:hith - like	S-chuk - black color S-che:thag - green/blue color S-chu:gam - dark (cannot see) S-cho:dag - rough (skin) S-chu’ - night S-chuk’chu - black person
˘ breve	The silent (i) is an aspiration* with a breve (˘) placed on top of the (i). This silent (i) <u>will not be used</u> as it’s considered confusing to learners.	thobĩ thothonĩ svegĩ	thob thothon sveg

*Pronunciation accompanied by breathing/wind escaping from mouth