

Sounds

Oneida does not have a long history of being written. The writing system used in this work is an adaptation of one introduced in the 1930's. It has been used increasingly since the 1970's for teaching purposes. The sound values of the letters are as follows:

Vowels

a	as in <u>a</u> ha or fa <u>th</u> er
e	as in the <u>y</u>
i	as in ski <u>i</u>
o	as in n <u>o</u>
ʌ	as in <u>f</u> un or <u>uh</u> <u>huh</u> (this vowel is always nasalized)
u	as in <u>t</u> une (this vowel is always nasalized)

Resonants

l	as in <u>l</u> ow
n	as in <u>n</u> o
w	as in <u>w</u> e
y	as in <u>y</u> es

Other consonants

t	as in <u>st</u> ove or wa <u>te</u> r - closer to a d when followed by a vowel or resonant as in <u>t</u> op elsewhere
k	as in <u>sk</u> ill - closer to a g when followed by a vowel or resonant as in <u>k</u> ee <u>p</u> elsewhere
s	as in wa <u>s</u> - closer to a z when between vowels as in <u>s</u> ay elsewhere - there is some variation among speakers and an s often sounds partway between a buzz and a hiss
h	as in <u>h</u> elp - h is aspiration and frequently occurs before consonants producing sound combinations not found in English
ʔ	as in the catch between the syllables in uh-oh - ʔ is a glottal stop and occurs only after vowels in Oneida

Special clusters

tsi (before consonants)	as in <u>j</u> udge
tsy (before vowels)	as in <u>j</u> udge
tshi (before consonants)	as in <u>ch</u> urch
tshy (before vowels)	as in <u>ch</u> urch
sy	as in <u>sh</u> oe

Intonation marks

A raised dot right after a vowel represents a lengthened vowel.

An accent mark over a vowel represents a stressed syllable.

The combination of both a dot and an accent on the same vowel represents a long falling tone on that vowel.

Final syllables in parentheses represent whispered sounds.