

PRONOUNCING PASSAMAQUODDY-MALISEET

VOWELS – A, E, I, O, U

Letter	English	Pa-Ma	Translation
a	father	ahahs	'horse'
e	bed	epit	'sitting'
eh	tack	ehpit	'woman'
i	machine	ipis	'whip'
o	apron	opos	'tree, stick'
u	dune	uten	'town'

VOWEL BLENDS

aw	<i>how</i>	<i>awt</i>	'road'
ew	<i>Europa (Spanish)</i>	<i>new</i>	'four'
iw	<i>few</i>	<i>lamiw</i>	'within'
ay	<i>pie</i>	<i>sepay</i>	'this morning'
ey	<i>grey</i>	<i>piksey</i>	'pork'
uw	<i>mooring (oo + w)</i>	<i>ckuwye</i>	's/he comes'

CONSONANTS

H, L, M, N, W, Y

The letters *h, l, m, n, w,* and *y* represent sounds much the same as those in English; *h* is pronounced before a vowel, silent or lightly pronounced before a consonant. The sound of *l* is more like that in the English word "feel" than in "leaf." The sound of *w* is less rounded than in English.

C, K, P, Q, S, T

The letters *c, k, p, q, s,* and *t* have a sound that varies between "tense" and "lax," or "unvoiced" and "voiced." The particular sound depends on whether the letter occurs next to another consonant, as shown in the chart below.

Letter	When next to another consonant, except the personal prefix <i>n-</i> 'I, we,' or when next to apostrophe, sounds like English...	When not next to a consonant or an apostrophe, or when following the personal prefix <i>n-</i> 'I, we,' sounds like English...
c	ch	j
k	k	g
p	p	b
q	kw	gw
s	s	z
t	t	d

Note that the consonant *c* resembles the digraph *ch* of English, while *q* resembles English *kw*. In Passamaquoddy-Maliseet, the consonant *q* is distinct from the two-consonant combination *kw-*; this pair occurs only at the beginning of words where the personal prefix *k-* 'you' comes before an initial *w-*; compare *kwik* (kweeg) 'you dwell' with *qin* (gween) 'really' and '*qasahkan* (kwah-zah-kahn) 's/he discards it.'

APOSTROPHE

Apostrophe (') stands for an initial consonant which is no longer pronounced. It is written only at the beginning of a word and only before *c, k, p, q, s,* or *t* when one of these consonants precedes a vowel.