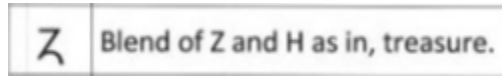


They needed to identify and include all the **phonemes** (sounds and blends of sounds) that couldn't be obtained by using the English **alphabet**. Lookout has said one of the things he likes about the Osage orthography is that it is dedicated to Osage sounds, but is based on the English alphabet, making it easier to learn.



With the help of some **linguists** and native Osage speakers, a few revisions were made, finalizing the **36-character** Osage orthography, which was officially adopted by the Osage Nation in 2015. See: [Osage Orthography Sound Guide](#).

Unicode - International Standard for language symbols

The next step was for the Osage orthography to be accepted by the **Unicode** international standard for symbols, so it could be accessed from anywhere in the world, on any computer operating system. (Before acceptance into Unicode, it would only appear as boxes and wouldn't work with many software applications.)

In 2014, the Osage orthography was approved by the Unicode Consortium, and in 2016, it appeared in the Unicode 9.0 system - a historic achievement.

Osage Font and Osage Language App

Being part of Unicode enabled development of the Osage font for computers and the Osage Language App released in 2017. See "[Fun with Osage Language App](#)" Guide. With many Osage living in different states, all of this communication through technology is especially important; all can now communicate and learn together on-line.

Dreams to Reality

Going from an idea in 2003 to becoming an internationally recognized font in 2016, the development of Osage orthography has come a long ways. Through the hard work and determination of many, this accomplishment helps fulfill the dream of Mogri Lookout who says: "I want this language to go on forever."



Osage Language Immersion School first grade students competing in the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair

Sources: Polaca, Benny. "[Congress recognizes Lookout for Osage language preservation efforts.](#)" *Osage News* 9-22-15. Shaw Duty, Shannon. "[Osage orthography included in Unicode 9.0, Language Department developing app.](#)" *Osage News* 7-1-2016. [Osage Language Department Font & App page](#). Photos courtesy Osage News. Compiled 2018.