

Name _____ **KEY** _____

Developing an Osage Orthography-Review Qs

Vocabulary

- Someone who specializes in studying language and its structure is a **linguist**.
- In order to write the words of a language, you have to have a system of writing called **orthography**.
- The group of letters or symbols in an orthography are called its **alphabet**.
- Each single written or printed symbol is a **character**.
- Every language has different **phonemes** - special sounds that enable listeners to tell one word from the other. Sometimes they are blended sounds.
- Unicode** is an international code where each letter is given a number, so all computers can tell what the character or letter should be.

Osage Orthography Sound Guide
 ႠႡႢႣႤႥႦႧႨႩႪႫႬႭႮႯႰႱႲႳႴႵႶႷႸႹႺႻႼႽႾႿ

Primarys		Primary Blends	
Ⴀ	'aw' sound as in, awesome.	Ⴁ	Blend of Ⴀ and Ⴂ
Ⴂ	long e sound as in, sleep.	Ⴃ	Blend of Ⴀ and Ⴄ
Ⴄ	short e sound as in, egg.	Ⴄ	Blend of Ⴂ and Ⴄ
Ⴅ	long O sound as in, Oh.	Ⴆ	Blend of Ⴅ and Ⴇ
Ⴇ	short u sound as in, huh!		
Ⴈ	'oo' sound as in the word, boot.	*	Add nasal 'n' to primary

Modifiers		Modifier Blends	
Ⴉ	Between 'T' and 'D'	Ⴐ	Blend of T and S together
Ⴊ	Between 'P' and 'B'	Ⴑ	Blend of D medial and R.
Ⴋ	Between 'K' and 'G'	Ⴒ	Blend of K and Y together.
Ⴌ	English H	Ⴓ	Blend of H and Y together.
Ⴍ	English S	Ⴔ	Blend of S and H as in, ship.
Ⴎ	English Z	Ⴕ	Blend of Z and H as in, treasure.
Ⴏ	English L	Ⴖ	Blend of T and H as in these.
Ⴐ	English M	Ⴗ	Blend of C and H as in, chip.
Ⴑ	English N		
Ⴒ	English W		
Ⴓ	Similar to 'x' sound, but guttural		
Ⴔ			
Ⴕ			
Ⴖ			
Ⴗ			

Review Questions

- Before the development of a standard Osage orthography, Osage was a “**spell it how you hear it**” language, with many inconsistencies in writing.
- What did Mogri Lookout and his helpers use to develop their orthography and language database?
Recordings of elders from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s
- Copy the Osage character for the phoneme “blend of Z and H” (**looks somewhat like Z**)
- How many characters are in the Osage orthography? **36** How many are in the English alphabet?
26
- Being accepted into **Unicode** meant Osage orthography could be accessed anywhere in the world on any computer operating system.
- Before this acceptance into this standard code, what would an Osage character look like in many software applications? **Like boxes**
- What are two technologies that were able to be developed for Osage language due to Unicode?
Osage font Osage language app
- What would be the hardest thing about developing an orthography for an unwritten language?
(varies) identifying all the sounds, deciding what character to put with sounds, etc.