



**kaloolitiitaawi**  
a myaamia phrase book

**Greetings**



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A Myaamia Phrase Book

**Greetings**

Compiled by Karen Baldwin

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Developed through the Miami Tribe of  
Oklahoma's Office of Cultural Preservation

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## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The following booklet is the first in a series of booklets being produced for Myaamia language learners. These booklets are meant to be a practical and useful language learning resource for a home environment. We have focused on common phrases and not basic vocabulary or individual words. They are intended to be most helpful for learners who have some familiarity with the language, but beginners should also find the series useful as well.

Each booklet contains a collection of short phrases and words based on everyday situations. Within each booklet are subcategories based on more specific situations divided into chapters. The phrases are random

and not in any kind of order. Each phrase can be used individually with a variety of responses found anywhere in the booklet. Mix and match to the situation you are in. Flexibility is what we are aiming for.

On each page you will find a phrase written in Myaamia and translated into English. Read the phrases horizontally from left to right. The left page is the initial phrase, with translation, and possible responses on the right page. There are often several options among the response phrases.

In addition to the phrases, there are chapters with common commands, sample conversations, and a wordlist

(glossary) at the very end. Common commands can be used individually or combined with other phrases you have mastered. Conversations are provided as examples for how you can construct basic conversation with someone in Myaamia based on your mastery of various phrases. The Wordlist (Glossary) at the back of each booklet is a compilation of all the Myaamia words used throughout this booklet. Alphabetical by Myaamia, it will be a useful tool while you learn.

These booklets are a great resource for anyone interested in advancing their language use for everyday conversation. kaloolitiitaawi 'lets talk to each other'.

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

**Consonants** - There are twelve consonants in the Miami-Peoria spelling system.

| <u>Symbol</u> | <u>as in Miami-Peoria</u>    | <u>as in English</u> |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>p</b>      | <b>pakaani</b> (nut)         | <b>paper</b>         |
| <b>t</b>      | <b>tawaani</b> (tree)        | <b>tie</b>           |
| <b>k</b>      | <b>akooka</b> (frog)         | <b>keep</b>          |
| <b>c</b>      | <b>aciwi</b> (hill)          | <b>church</b>        |
| <b>s</b>      | <b>sakimia</b> (mosquito)    | <b>see</b>           |
| <b>š</b>      | <b>šooli</b> (money)         | <b>show</b>          |
| <b>h</b>      | <b>neehi</b> (and)           | <b>ahead</b>         |
| <b>m</b>      | <b>miimia</b> (pigeon)       | <b>mom</b>           |
| <b>n</b>      | <b>niila</b> (I, me)         | <b>no</b>            |
| <b>l</b>      | <b>piloohsa</b> (child)      | <b>leave</b>         |
| <b>w</b>      | <b>waapiki</b> (it is white) | <b>wish</b>          |
| <b>y</b>      | <b>yaalanwi</b> (five)       | <b>yarn</b>          |

**Vowels** - There are four vowels in Miami-Peoria, which appear in both a short and long form. Long vowels are always written as doubled. Thus, *a*, *e*, *i*, and *o* are short vowels, while *aa*, *ee*, *ii*, and *oo* are the corresponding long vowels. In addition to having a slightly different pronunciation from their short equivalents, long vowels are also pronounced longer and more drawn out, with a greater duration than short vowels.

The following is a rough guide to the pronunciation of these vowel symbols:

| <b><u>Symbol</u></b> | <b><u>as in Miami-Peoria</u></b> | <b><u>as in English</u></b> |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>a</b>             | anikwa (squirrel)                | pot                         |
| <b>aa</b>            | waawi (egg)                      | fall                        |
| <b>e</b>             | alemwa (dog)                     | bet                         |
| <b>ee</b>            | neepika (he dies)                | made                        |
| <b>i</b>             | nipi (water)                     | big                         |
| <b>ii</b>            | niišwi (two)                     | see                         |
| <b>o</b>             | ayaalo (go)                      | no                          |
| <b>oo</b>            | šooli (money)                    | moose                       |

**Preaspirated Consonants** - These are unique sounds not found in English. Typically these consist of a short breath, like an *h* sound, before the following consonant:

| <b><u>Symbol</u></b> | <b><u>as in Miami-Peoria</u></b> |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>hp</b>            | iihpiiki (it is tall)            |
| <b>ht</b>            | eehteeki (it is located)         |
| <b>hk</b>            | mahkwa (bear)                    |
| <b>hs</b>            | moohsia (worm)                   |
| <b>hš</b>            | nihšiiima (my younger sibling)   |
| <b>hc</b>            | moohci (no)                      |

**Other Sounds** - there are some standard sound rules that apply in some situations. Basically, consonants become voiced when they follow a nasal. In the case of *s* and *š* these also become voiced when their preceding vowel follows a nasal (V = any vowel):

| <b>Symbol</b> | <b>as in Miami-Peoria</b> | <b>as in English</b>  |
|---------------|---------------------------|---|
| <b>nk</b>     | ninkya (my mother)        | linger  |
| <b>nt</b>     | kintiwa (golden eagle)    | tinder  |
| <b>ns</b>     | kinsooyi (your tail)      | frenzy  |
| <b>nc</b>     | iilinci (he is told)      | conjure   |
| <b>nš</b>     | pinšiwa (bobcat)          | pleasure (but with an <i>n</i><br>before the <i>zh</i> sound) |
| <b>mp</b>     | nimpiilaa (I bring him)   | lumber  |
| <b>mVs</b>    | masaana (thread)          | (-maz-)   |
| <b>nVs</b>    | lenaswa (buffalo)         | (-naz-)   |
| <b>mVš</b>    | mahkomiši (sumac tree)    | (-mizh-)  |
| <b>nVš</b>    | taaniši (how)             | (-nizh-)  |

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## Myaamia

## English

1. aya
2. aya niihka (addressing form)
3. aya niihkaaninka (addressing form/pl.)
4. aya eeweemilaani (general term)
5. aya eeweemilakakoki (general term/pl.)
6. aya ceelaweemilaani (close relative)
7. aya ceelaweemilakakoki (close relative/pl.)
8. aya [iinka, noohsa, hseensa, nimihse, etc.]
9. taaniši išinaakosiyani
10. neehahki-nko kiiyawī
11. neehahki-nko kiiyoowe
12. keetwi keewaacimwinki

1. Hi, Hello, Welcome, Good morning/afternoon/or evening.
2. Hello my friend.
3. Hello my friends. (pl.)
4. Hello my relative. (general term)
5. Hello my relatives. (general term/pl.)
6. Hello my relative. (close relative)
7. Hello my relatives. (close relative/pl.)
8. Hello [mother, father, elder brother, elder sister, etc.].
9. How are you? (informal)
10. Is it well with you? (formal)
11. Is it well with you? (formal/pl.)
12. What's the news? What is talked about, news?

## Myaamia

## English

1. aya
2. aya
3. aya
4. tipeewe neeyoolani
5. tipeewe neeyoolakakoki
6. aya
7. aya
8. aya
9. neehahki niyawī
10. teehoohtawiaani  
meentamaani
11. iihia/moohci
12. meeneehwiki keewaacimwinki

1. Hi, Hello.
2. Hi, Hello.
3. Hi, Hello.
4. Good to see you.
5. Good to see you. (pl.)
6. Hi, Hello.
7. Hi, Hello.
8. Hi, Hello.
9. I'm fine.
10. I have a cold.  
I'm sick.
11. Yes/no.
12. There is no news.

## Myaamia

## English

13. keetwi išiliniyani

13. What have you been doing?

14. keetwi išiliniyiikwi

14. What have you (pl.) been doing?

15. taaniši ayaayani

15. Where are you going?

## Myaamia

## English

13. moošaki meehkimwiaani  
eetamihwiaani neepwaaminki  
moohci kiikoo išileniaani  
meeneehwiaani  
paahpiaani ahkinki

13. I'm always working.  
I'm busy with school.  
I haven't been doing anything.  
I've been gone, away, absent.  
I was playing outside.

14. moošaki meehkimwiaanki  
eetamihwiaanki neepwaaminki  
moohci kiikoo išileniaanki  
meeneehwiaanki  
paahpiaanki ahkinki

14. We (excl.) are always working.  
We (excl.) are busy with school.  
We (excl.) haven't been doing anything.  
We (excl.) have been gone, away, absent.  
We (excl.) have been playing outside.

15. minooteninkiši iyaayaani  
nipwaantiikaaninkiši iyaayaani  
ataaweekaaninkiši iyaayaani  
mehkimwikaaninkiši iyaayaani  
šoolikaaninkiši iyaayaani  
maacaani

15. I am going to town.  
I am going to school.  
I am going to the store.  
I am going to work.  
I am going to the bank.  
I am heading off, going home.