

The Sounds of the Seneca Language



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Gayë'jöh

Alphabet

A	<i>as in</i>	want/ lucky?
E	<i>as in</i>	they
I	<i>as in</i>	ski
O	<i>as in</i>	open
U	<i>as in</i>	dude
Ä	<i>as in</i>	apple/ man
Ë	<i>as in</i>	when/ men
Ö	<i>as in</i>	own
D	<i>as in</i>	forehead/ dog
G	<i>as in</i>	goose
H	<i>as in</i>	hospital/ home
J	<i>as in</i>	jam/ jail
K	<i>as in</i>	kind/ attack
N	<i>as in</i>	nice
S	<i>as in</i>	say
Š	as in	show
T	<i>as in</i>	tea
W	<i>as in</i>	win
Y	<i>as in</i>	you
DZ	<i>as in</i>	sounds?/xylophone?/ zebra
:	long vowel (lengthens)	as in <u>balloon</u>
'	glottal (quick cut-off)	as in uh-oh

NOTE: When pronouncing it's necessary to pronounce the **sound** (the letter will make) RATHER THAN the letter itself.

Vowel Chart

	A	E	I	O	U	Ä	Ë	Ö
D	da	de	di	do	du	dä	dë	dö
G	ga	ge	gi	go	gu	gä	gë	gö
H	ha	he	hi	ho	hu	hä	hë	hö
J	ja	je	ji	jo	ju	jä	jë	jö
K	ka	ke	ki	ko	ku	kä	kë	kö
N	na	ne	ni	no	nu	nä	në	nö
S	sa	se	si	so	su	sä	së	sö
Š	ša	še	ši	šo	šu	šä	šë	šö
T	ta	te	ti	to	tu	tä	të	tö
W	wa	we	wi	wo	wu	wä	wë	wö
Y	ya	ye	yi	yo	yu	yä	yë	yö
Z	za	ze	zi	zo	zu	zä	zë	zö

EXTRA: When you become familiar with this chart and pronouncing the syllables, feel welcomed to add in and practice the stresses at the end of each syllable.

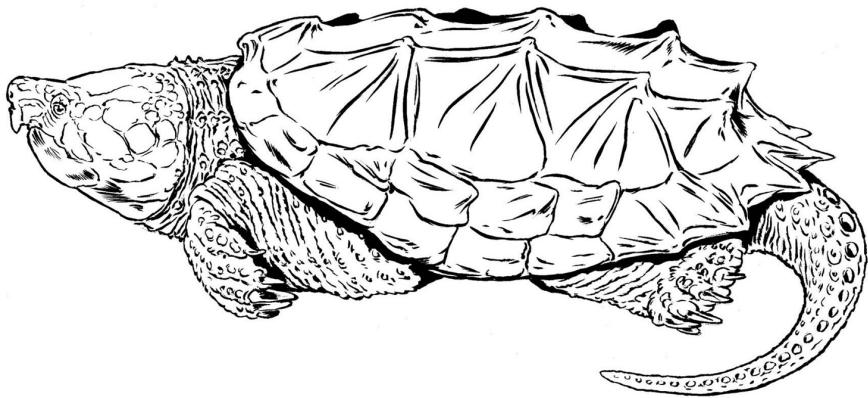
e.g. da , da: , da' ; de , de: , de' ; di , di: , di' ; etc.

Double Consonant Combinations

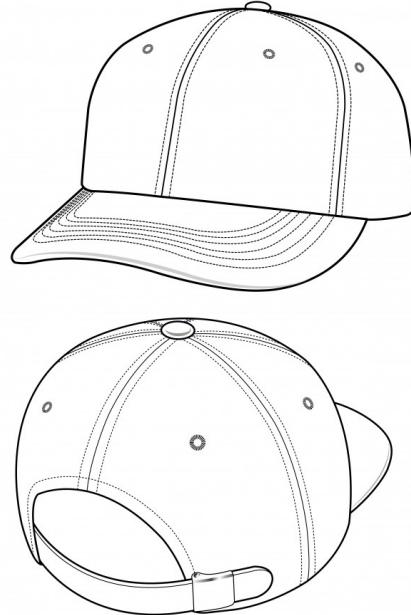
Dj	as in	<i>adjust</i>
Dw	as in	d wight
Dz	as in	beds / sounds
Gw	as in	penguin
Gy	as in	<i>agya:h</i>
Hn	as in	john
Kd	as in	Brocton
Kh	as in	k haki/ kite
Kn	as in	black n ight
Ks	as in	kicks
Kw	as in	quick
Ky	as in	back y ard
Ny	as in	canyon
Sg	as in	ask/ thank s giving/ disgrace
Sh	as in	decipher/ cross h ere
St	as in	under st and/ domesticated
Sw	as in	sweet
Sy	as in	sh ow
Tg	as in	shotgun/ concertgoer
Th	as in	taught/ practice/ computer
Ts	as in	cats
Tš	as in	ch alk
Tw	as in	twice

Note: The 'sh' consonant combination is always pronounced as 'cross **h**ere', the letter 's' and 'h' being pronounced separately, NOT like the 'sh' as in the word 'she'. E.g. sha'ga:d - same; oshe:da' - number ; oshaisda' - snake

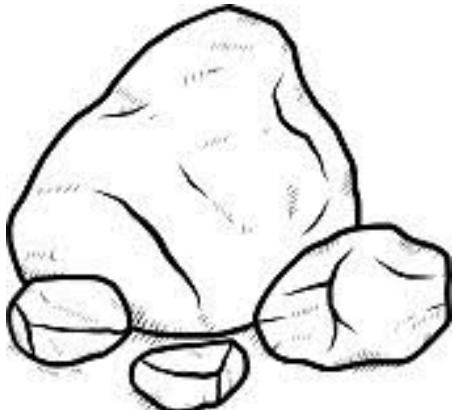
A	E	I	O	U	Ä	Ë	Ö
dja	dje	dji	djo	dju	djä	djë	djö
dwa	dwe	dwi	dwo	dwu	dwä	dwë	
dza	dze	dzi	dzo	dzu	dzä	dzë	dzö
gwa	gwe	gwi	gwo	gwu	gwä	gwë	gwö
gya	gye	gyi	gyo	gyu	gyä	gyë	
hna	hne	hni	hno	hnu	hnä	hnë	
kda	kde	kdi	kdo	kdu	kdä	kdë	
kha	khe	khi	kho	khu	khä	khë	
kna	kne	kni	kno	knu	knä	knë	
ksa	kse	ksi	kso	ksu	ksä	ksë	
kwa	kwe	kwi	kwo	kwu	kwä	kwë	
kyä	kye	kyi	kyo	kyu	kyä	kyë	
nya	nye	nyi	nyo	nyu	nyä	nyë	
sga	sge	sgi	sgo	sgu	sgä	sgë	
sha	she	shi	sho	shu	shä	shë	
sta	Ste	sti	sto	stu	stä	stë	
swa	swe	swi	swo	swu	swä	swë	
sya	sye	syi	syo	syu	syä	syë	
tga	tge	tgi	tgo	tgu	tgä		
tha	the	thi	tho	thu	thä	th	th
tsa	tse	tsi	tso	tsu	tsä	ts	ts
tša	tše	tši	tšo	tšu	tšä	tš	tš
twa	twe	twi	two	twu	twä	tw	tw



ha'no:wah

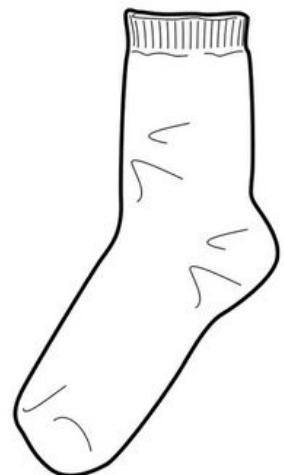


gahigwä:'



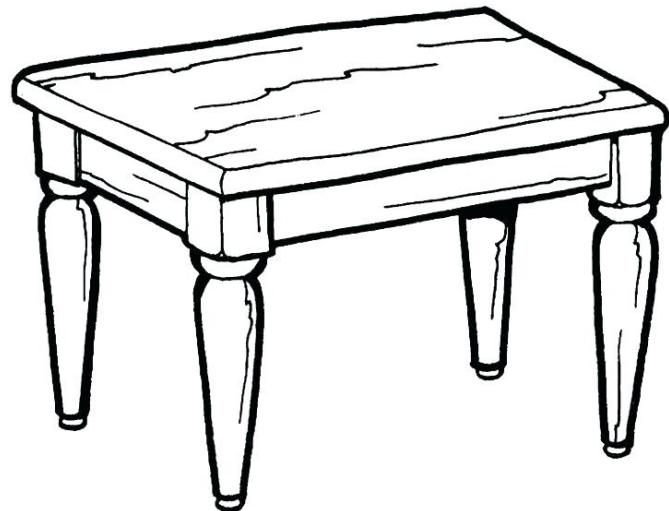
ga'sgwaa'

Aa

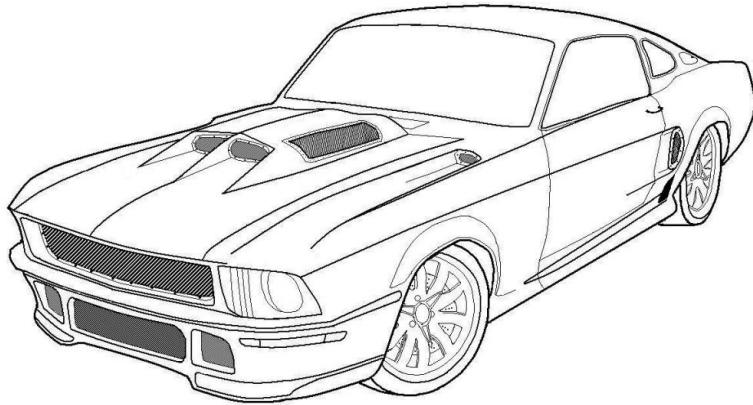
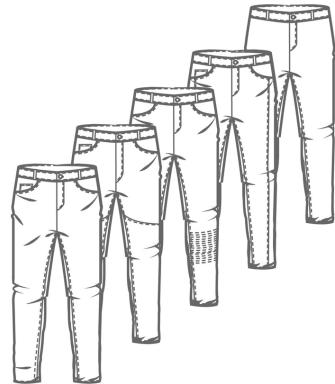
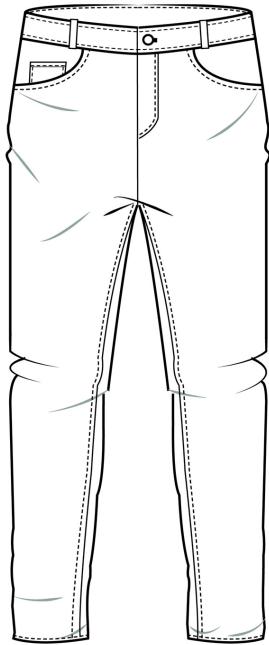


adáhdi'shä'

Ha'nih
Akso:t
gákwa'
Gá:hgwgì:'da:h
ogé'dza'



adékwá:hgwa'



ga'séhda'

gayáhdowé'shä'

E e

6
ye:i'

Swagwe:göh

Go'geh

asdeh

ye:yádöhgwa'

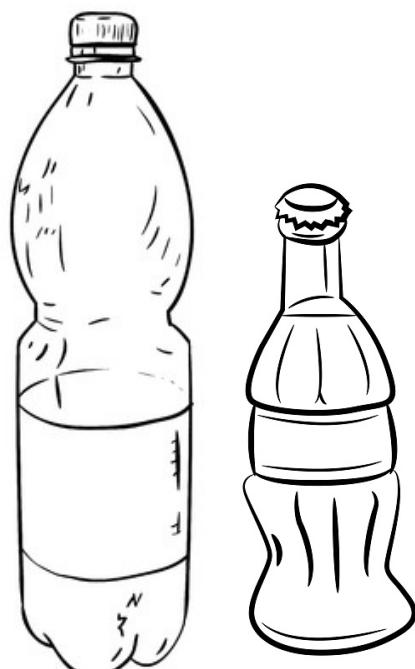
Dekni:h

ge:ih

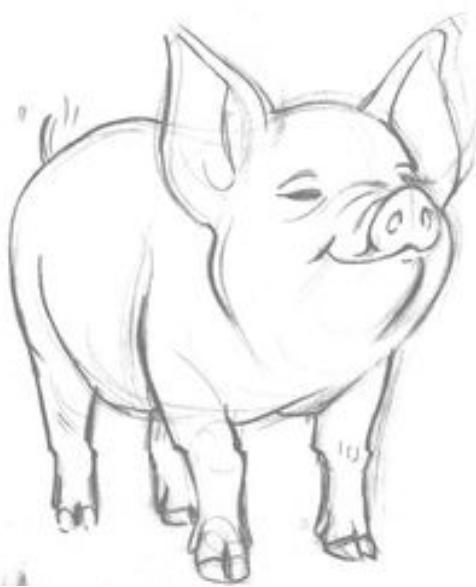
degyö'

gagö:swe:s

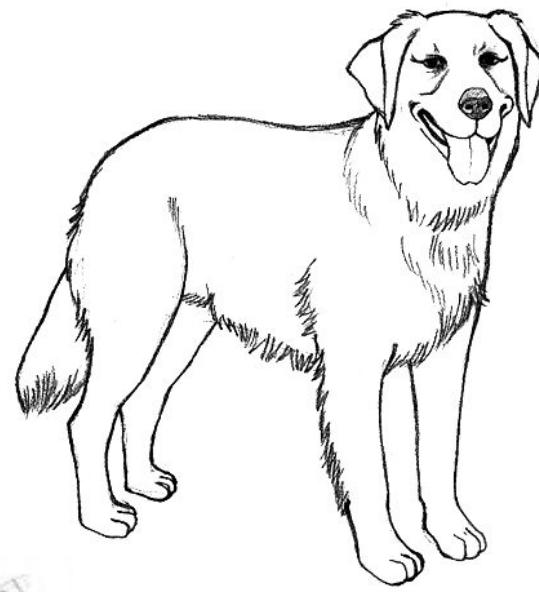
okdéä'



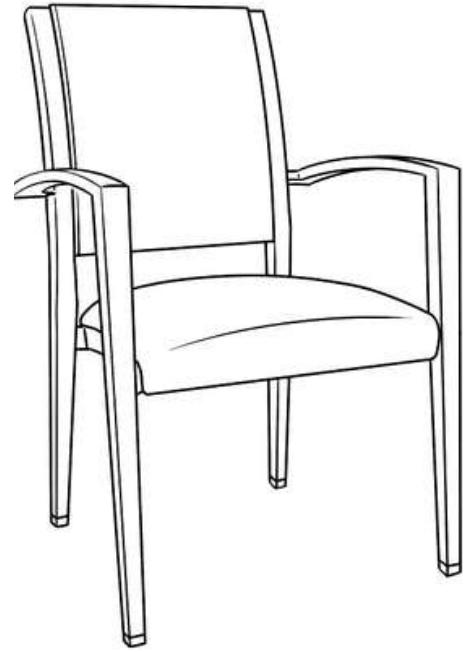
gashé'da'



gwisgwí:s



ji:yä:h



gají'ga:ya'

Ii

Ga:jih

Ha'nih

Hage'nih

gawísda'

dekni:h

Ohjí'gä'

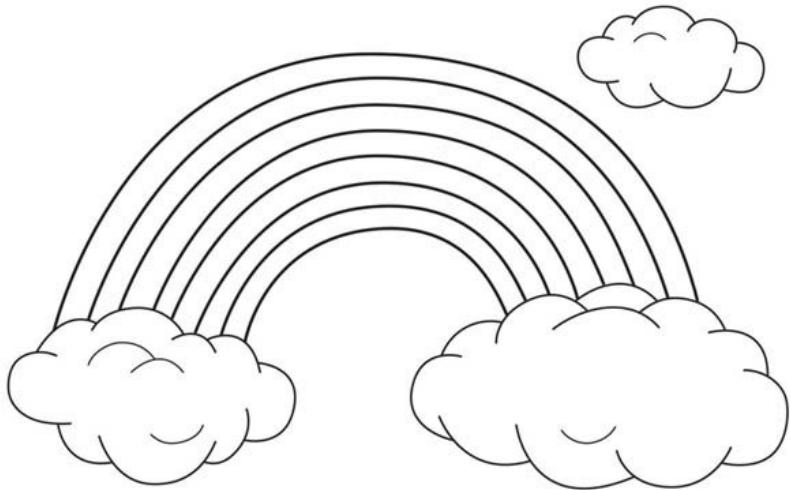
gají:sda'

4

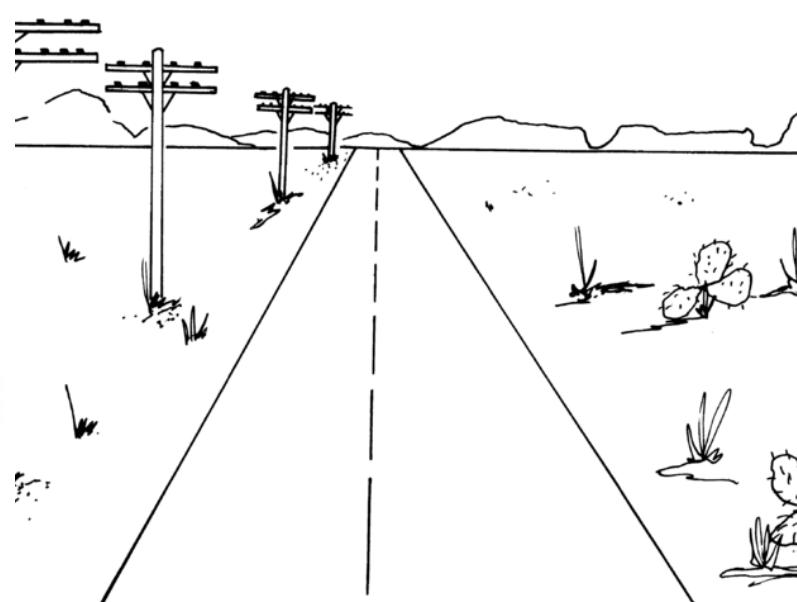
ge:ih



gä:it

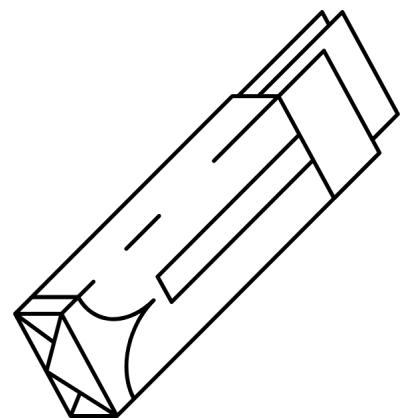


o'ha:ot



o:ade'

O O



Nyoh

Go'geh

so:wäk

o'da'

o'no:wa'

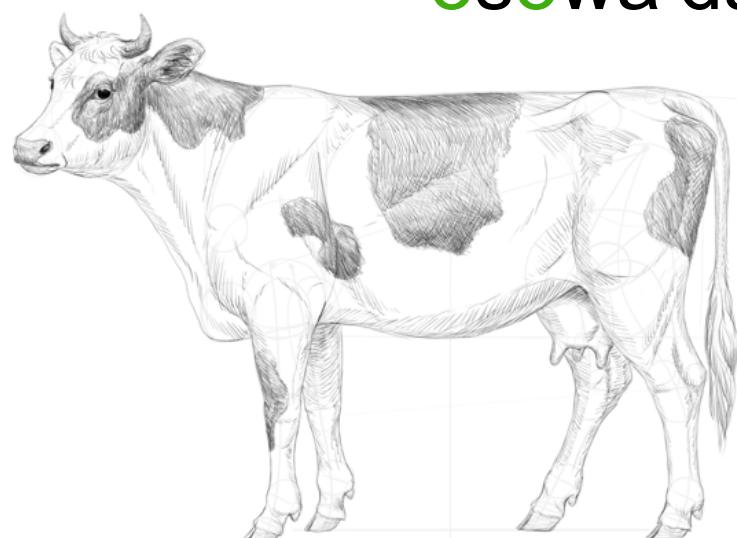
Ganönyo:k

ga'da:ot

Ha'nó:wa:h

Gasdo:wä'

osówa'da'



jó:sgwa:ön

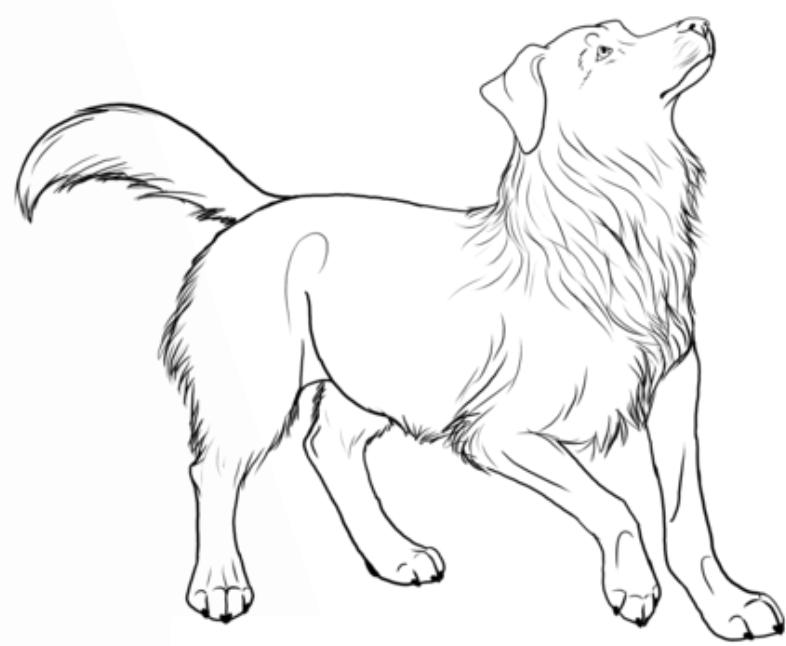
Uu

Mainly refers to an object tiny in size

ni:wu'uh

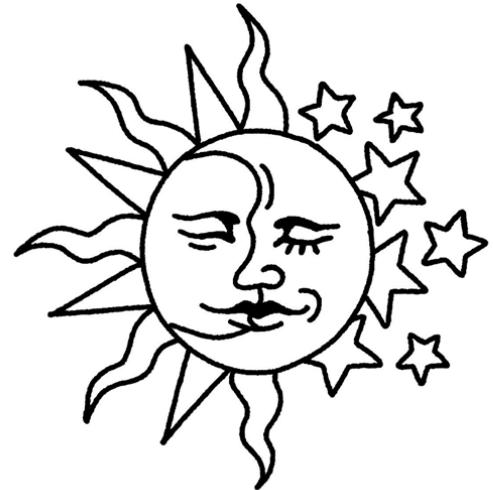


óá'da'



ji:yä:h

Aä



ää:

Kwaji:yä' (Akwaji:yä')

Osdówä'go:wa:h

Shedwähji'-

ëde:ka:' gä:hgwa:'

Ethísod söeka:'-

gä:hgwa:'



onowá:'shä'



ji'dé'ö:h



Johëhgöh

Eë

3

No'yëh

Nya:wëh

Sgë:nö'

neogë'

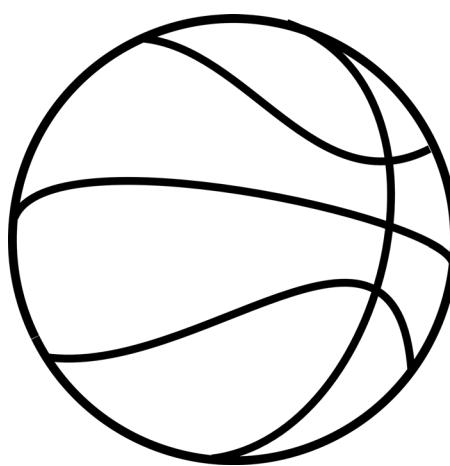
Hë'ëh

dagä:'ë:'

jisgë:h

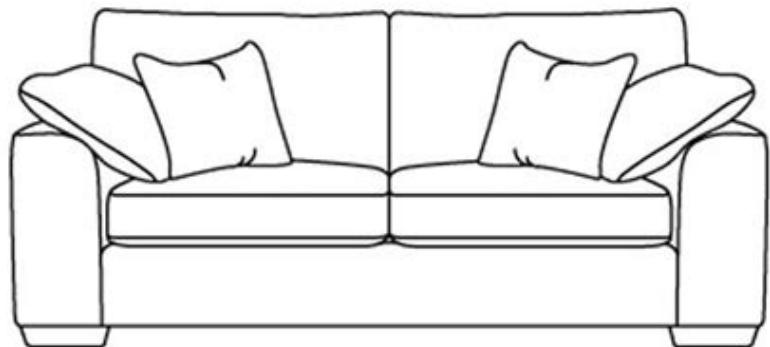
ojí'danö:wë:'

gëdzöh/gëjöh



sëh

ë'ho:shä'



yödöishé dahgwa'

ganöhso:d

OÖ

Knöe's

Ganönyo:k

Agádöswé'danih

Adö:wë'

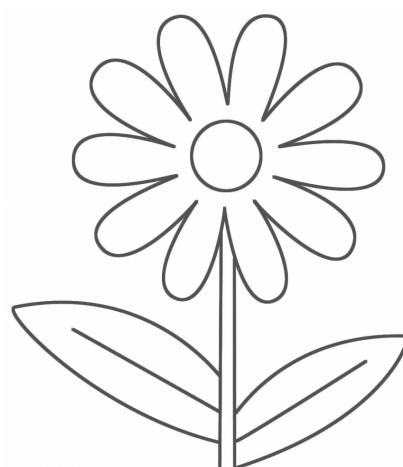
Ësgö:gë' ae'

Agádöhöe'

gönööhgwä'



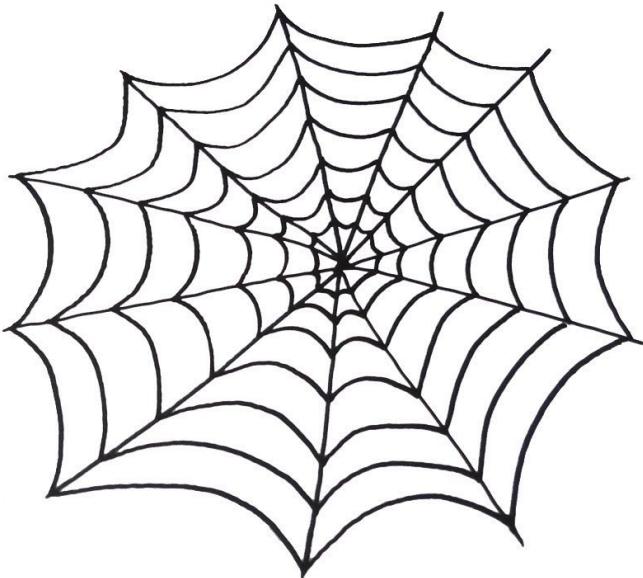
ganö'nosta'



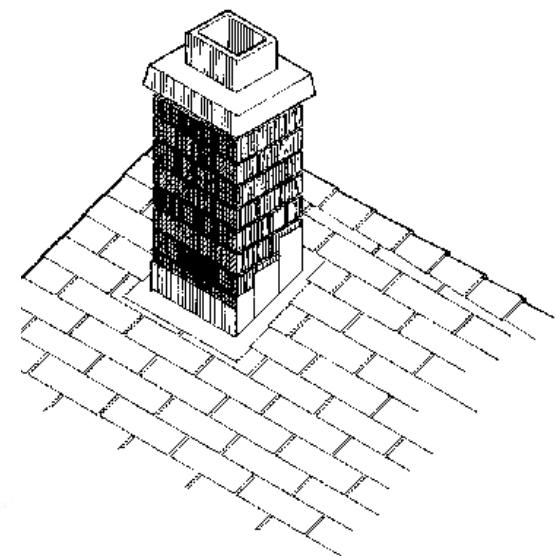
awéö'

9

johdö:h



odá'ä:dö'



ga'da:ot

Dd

1

sga:t

[‘t’ and ‘d’ can be interchangeable]

Do:gës

o'da'

Akso:t

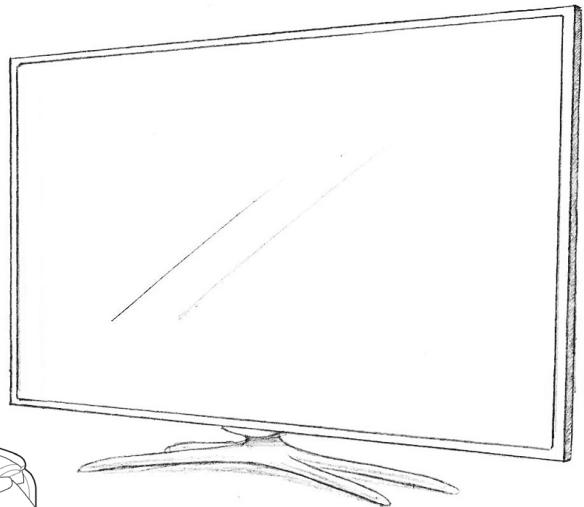
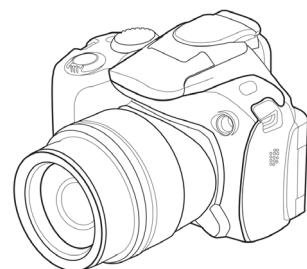
dekni:h

johdö:h

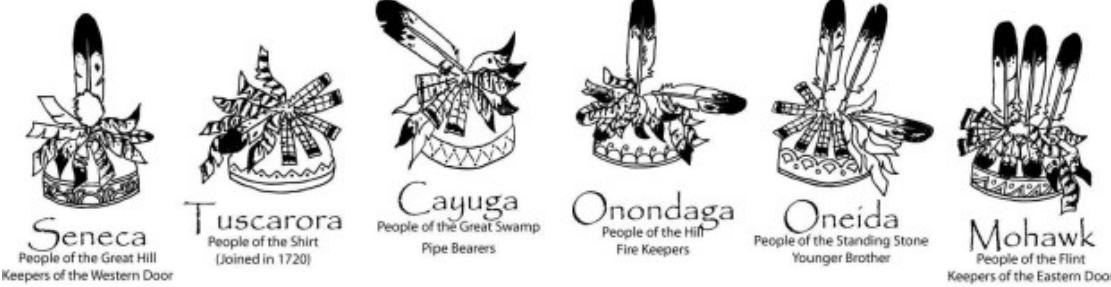
gayáhdowé'shä'

o'ha:ot

dago:ji'



gayá'daha'



gasdo:wä'



gëdzöh/gëjöh

8

degyö'

Gg



hö:ga:k

Sgë:nö'

neogë'

Nyagwai'

go'geh

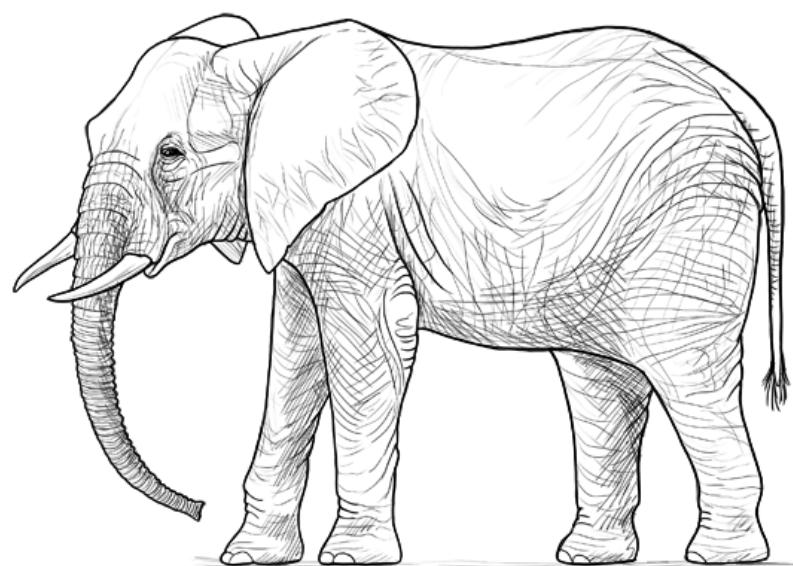
gawë:no'

Gönóöhgwá'

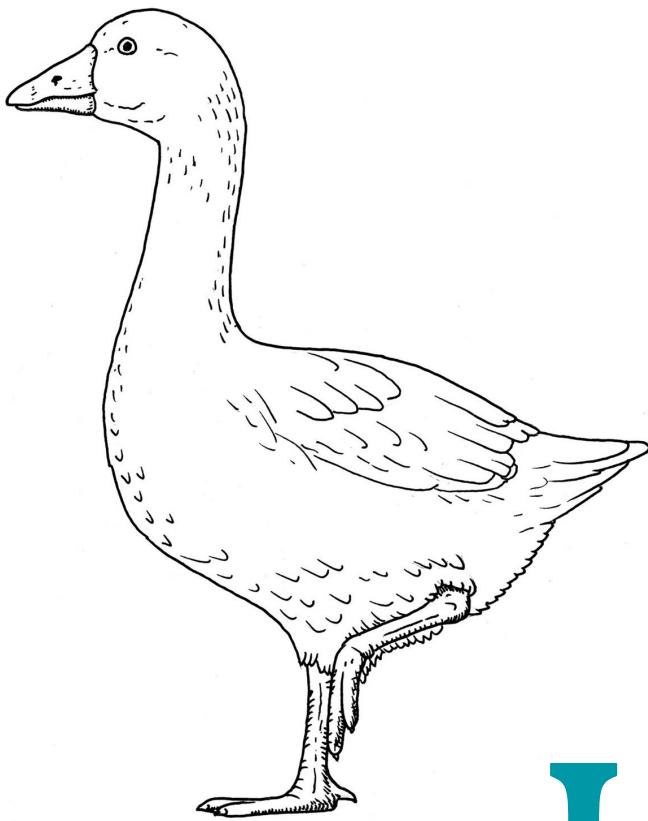
Hage'nih

gahóá'

gáōshä'



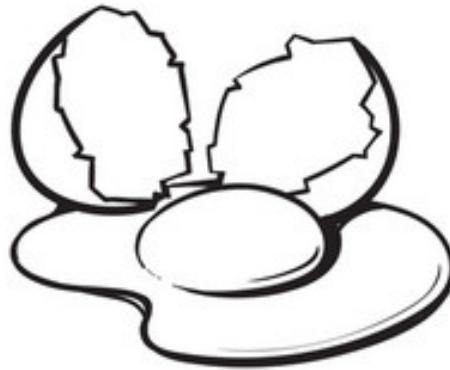
gagö:swe:s



hö:ga:k

Hh

(puff of air through nose)



o' höhsa'



jisgë:h

ye:yádöhgwa'

dewáöhde:s

Ha'nih

Hage'nih

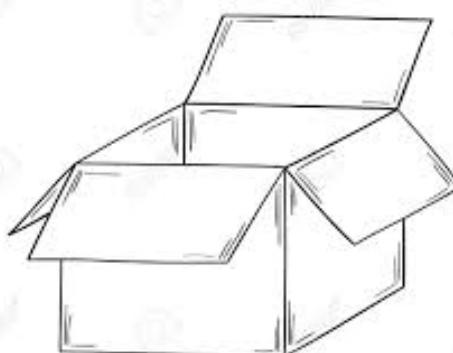
gönóöhgwa'

gahóá'

ji'ä:yë:h

o'nööhgö:n

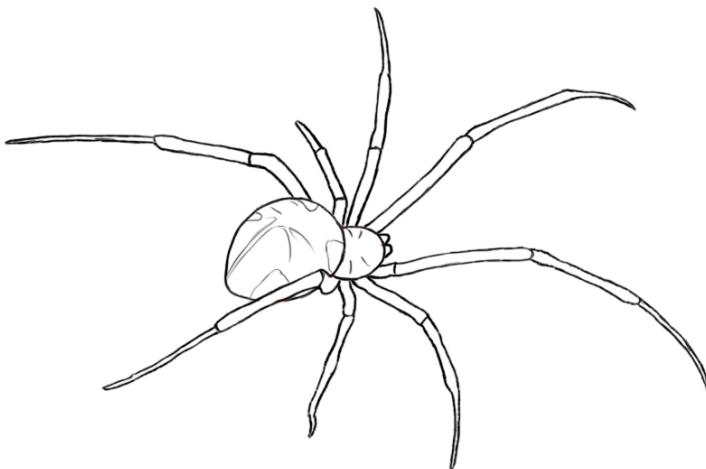
oshésda'



gáöshä'



áöhda'



ji'ä:yë:h



ojí'danö:wë:'



ohjí'gä'

Jj



'dz' may often be interchangeable with the
'j' sound instead

ji:yäh

Ja:göh/dza:goḥ

Jisgë:h

ja:dak/dza:dak

Ga:jih

aja'dawí'shä'

Johëhgöh

Jő:yaik

dega:kja's



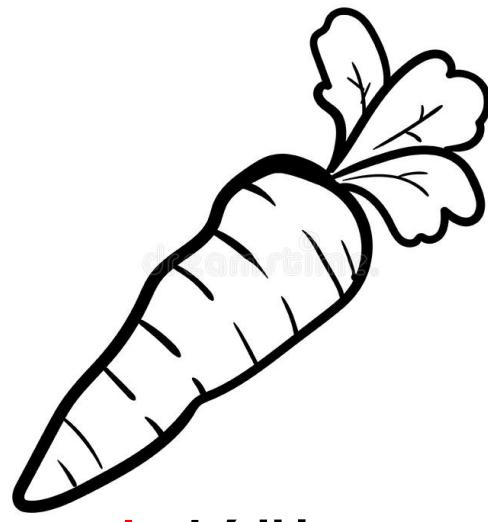
dago:ji'

gaji:sda'



dega:kja's

Kk



okdéä'

2

dekni:h

so:wäk

Akso:t

Ke'gë'

koh

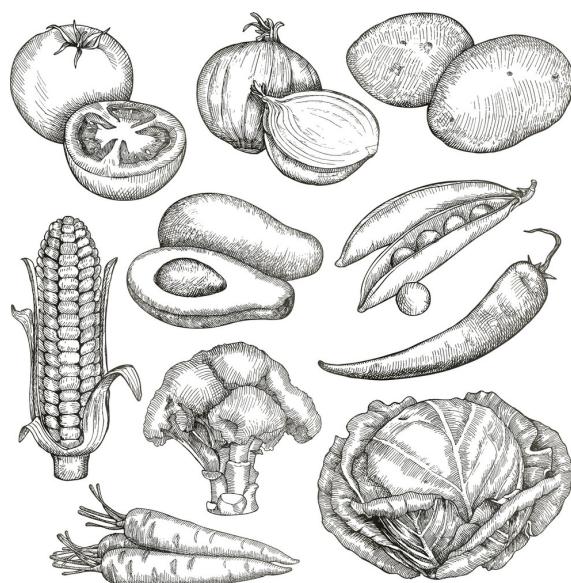
knöe's

Ganönyo:k

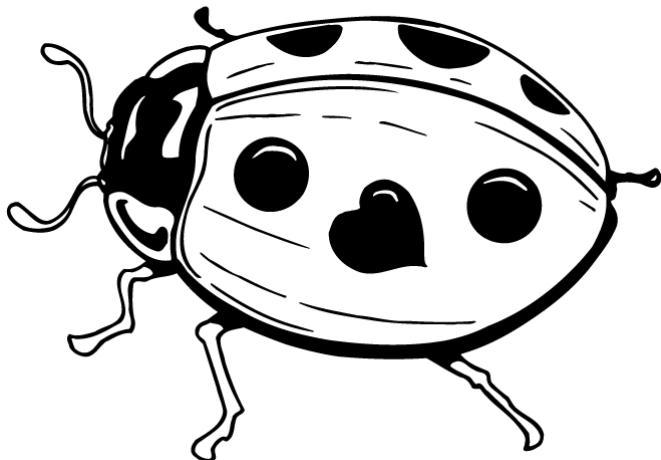
dza:dak/ja:dak

Nisgowakneh

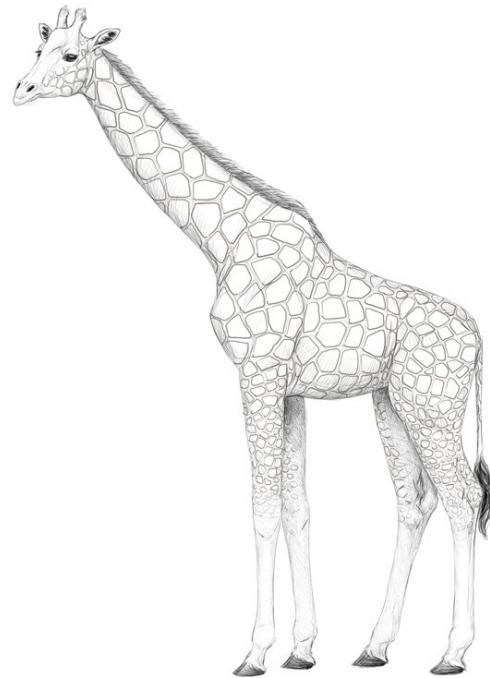
nö'gö:ka:'



gaëdagö:ka:'



o'no:wa'



ga:nyá'se:s

Nn



Dekni:h

gönóöhgwa'

No'yëh

knöe's

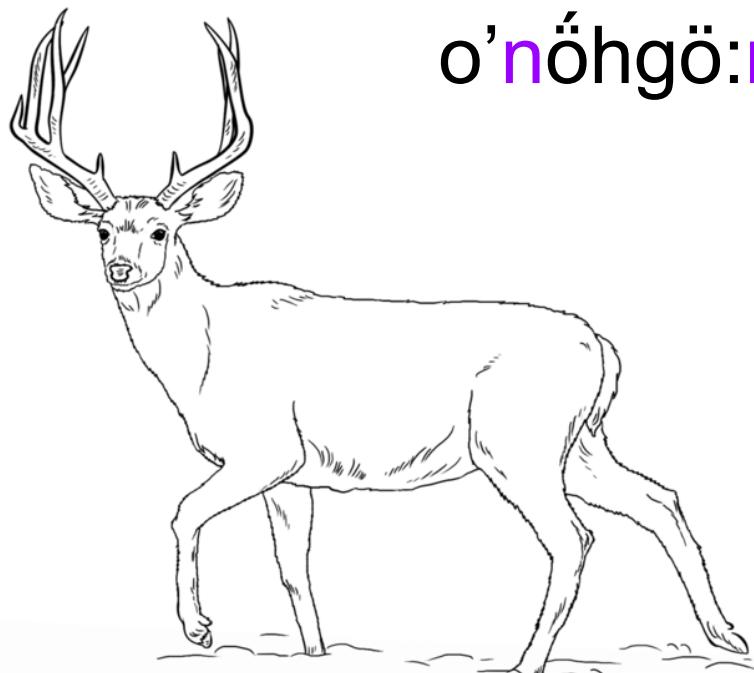
Ha'nih

Nyoh

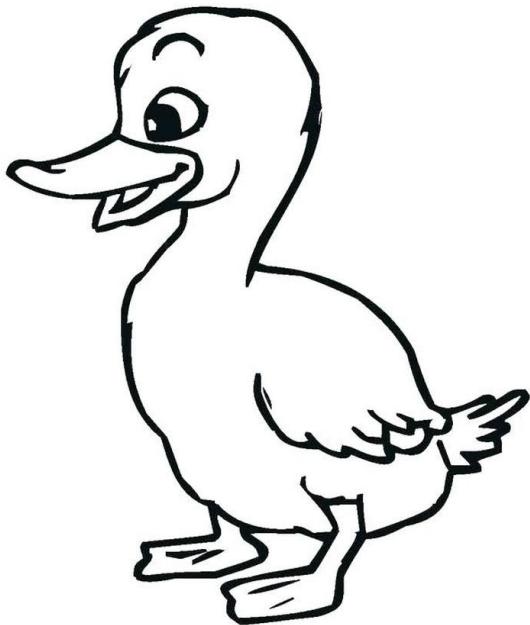
se:nö:h

GanÖhso:d

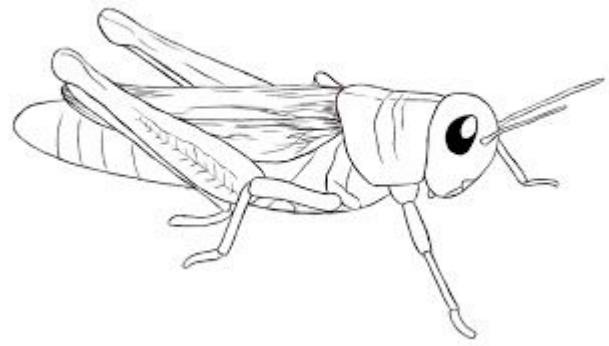
nyagwai'



neogë'



so:wäk



jisda:ah



se:nö:h

Ss

asdeh

We:so'

Aksot

sga:t

Sgahsö'

Shenö:kshö'

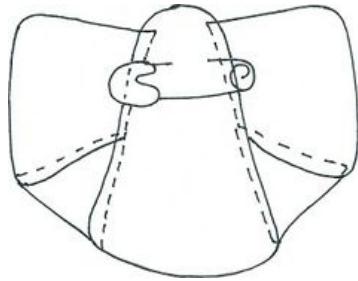
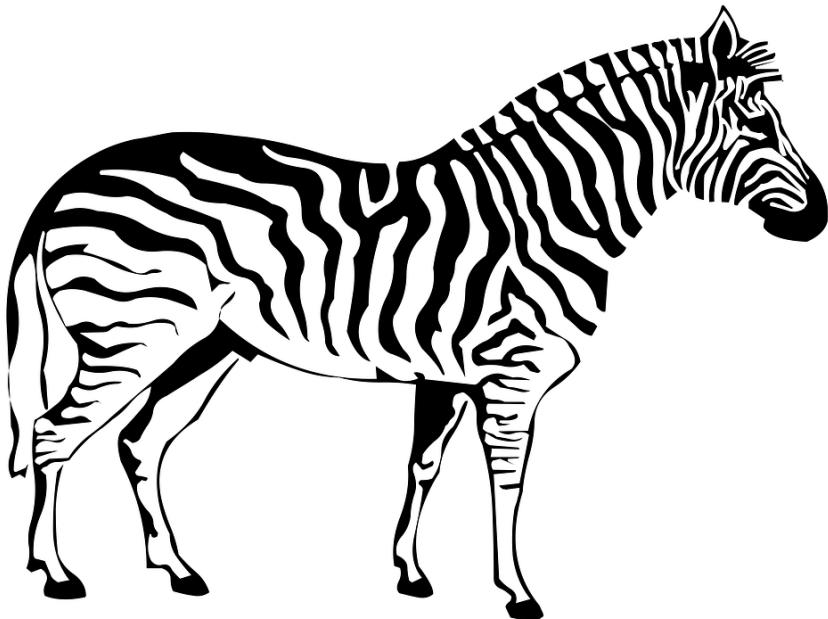
knöe's

wë:níshäde'

gagö:swe:s



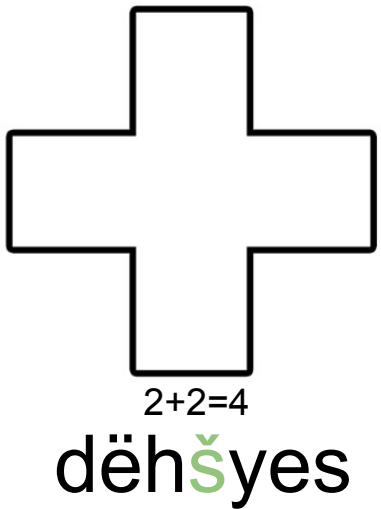
Wahda' oshésda'



ga'šödä:'

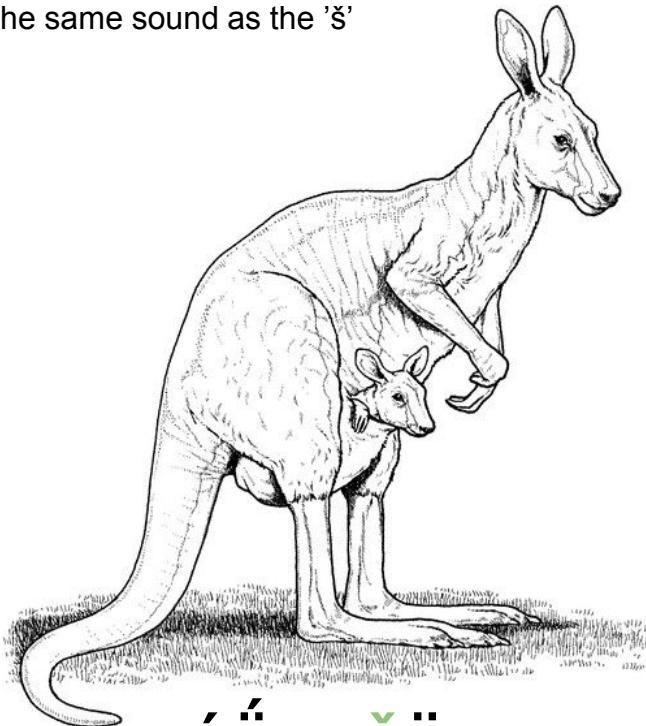
deyoja'dahahsyö'

Š Š

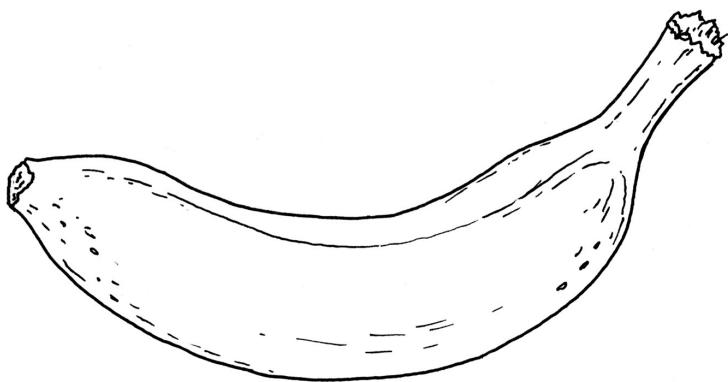


'sy' will make the same sound as the 'š'

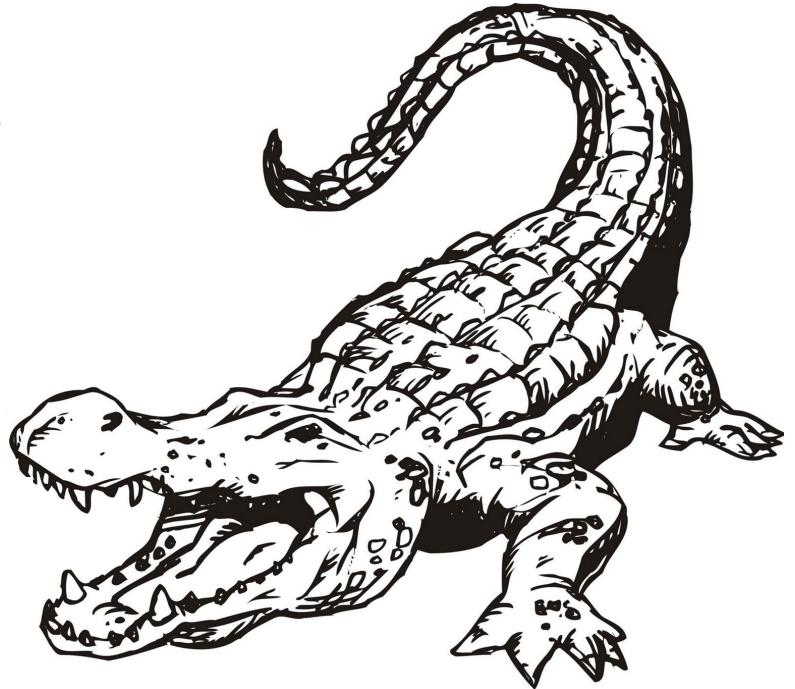
Ga'da:šo:d
Wë:nítši:yo:h
Hodínöhšö:ni:h
Syadöh
syëösdö:gwa:h



áõgešö:n

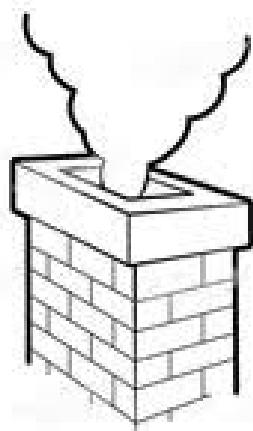


odzōtgä:'



gatgwé'da'

Tt



Tgaye:i'

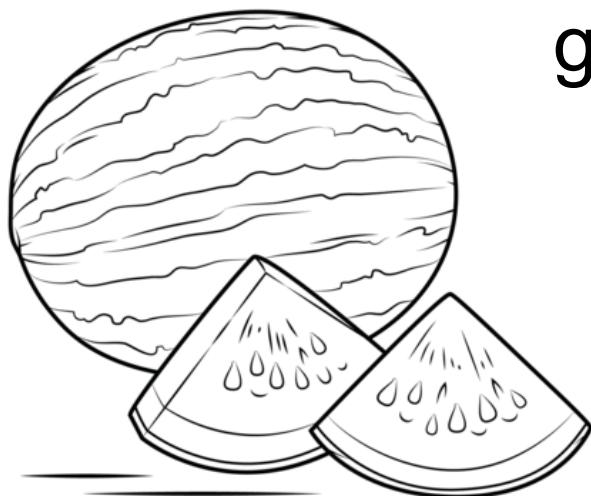
Akso:t

O'ha:ot

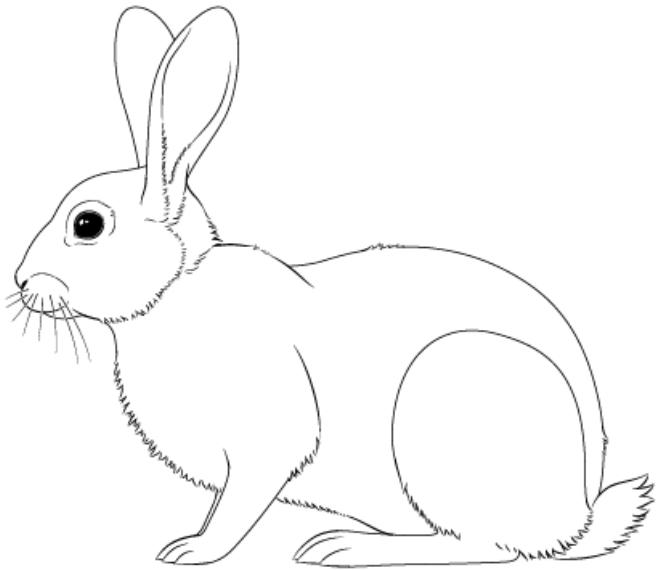
Otgwëhsa'

sga:t

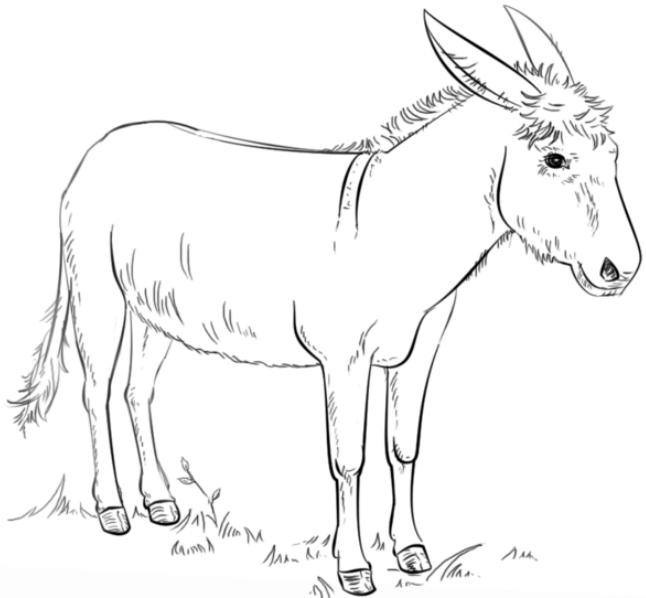
ga'da:ot



o:nyohsatgos

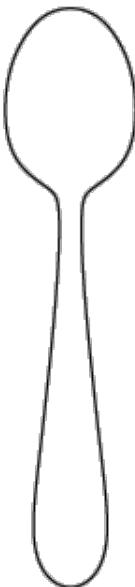


gwa'yo:'



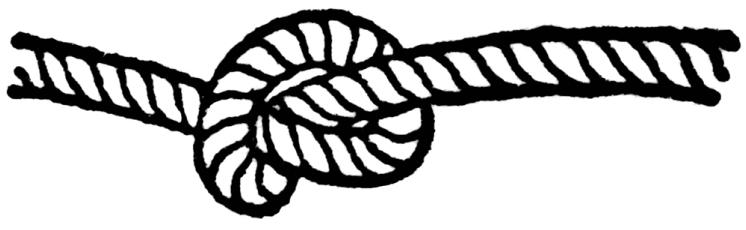
dewáöhde:s

Ww

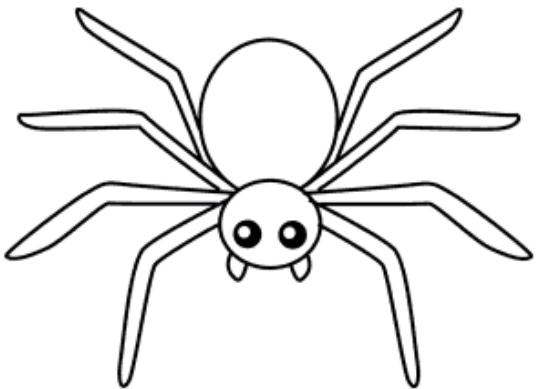
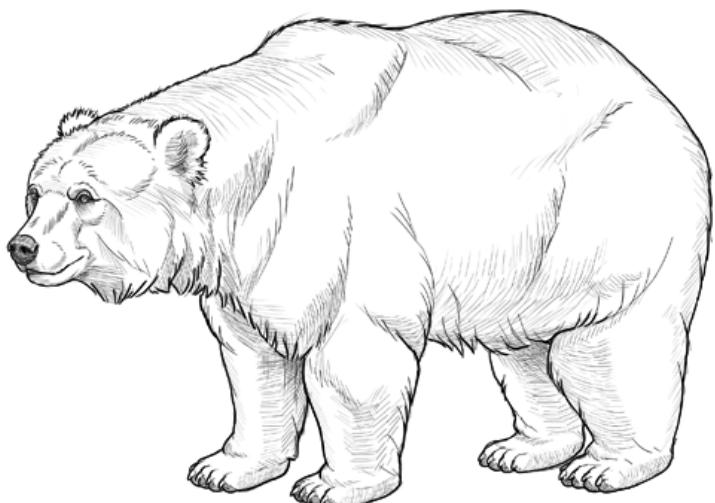


o'no:wa'
So:wäk
wi:yo:h
jó:sgwa:ön
ga'sgwa:a'
nyagwai'
Gasdo:wä'
We:so'
onowä:'shä'

5
wis



onösgwä:'



ji'ä:yë:h

nyagwai'

Yy

yagö:gweh

Ji:yä:h

Etíno'ëh Yöëdzade'

gwa'yo:'

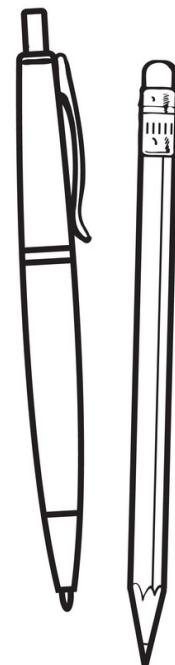
degyö'

gayá'daha'

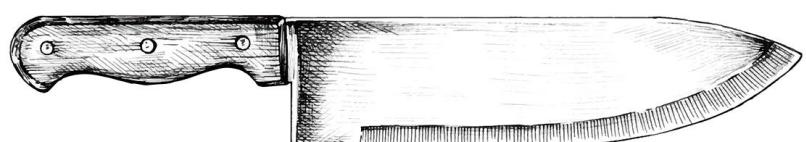
wi:yo:h

ga:nyá'se:s

dzó:nyödah



ye:yádöhgwa'



gagánya'shä'



dzó:nyödah/
jó:nyödah

7

dza:dak/
ja:dak

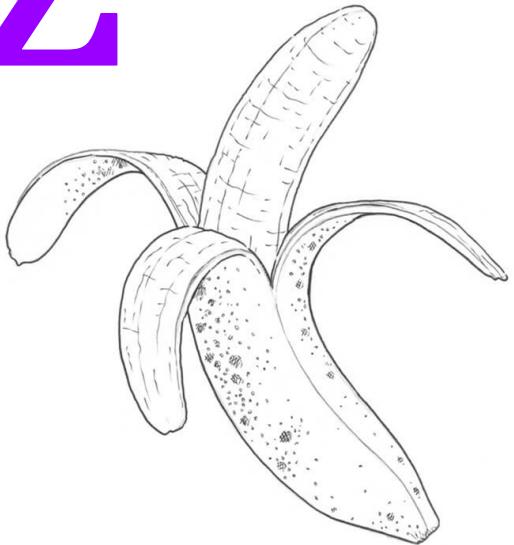


dzóäshä'

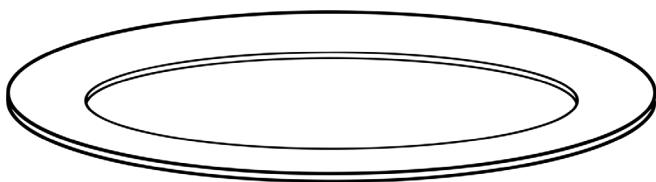
DZdz

'dz' may often be replaced with the 'j' sound

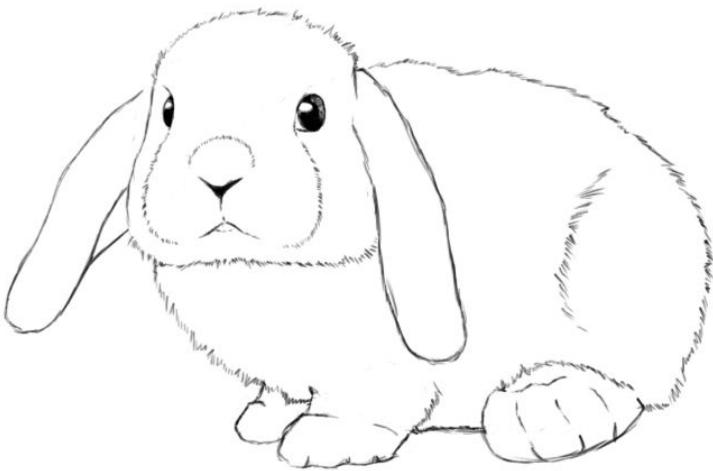
Etíno'ëh Yöëdzade'
Dza:göh/Ja:göh
dzo'jih/so'jih/jo'jih
dzoná'áésdo:wa:
dzo:äga'/jo:äga'
Idzën!
ogé'dza'



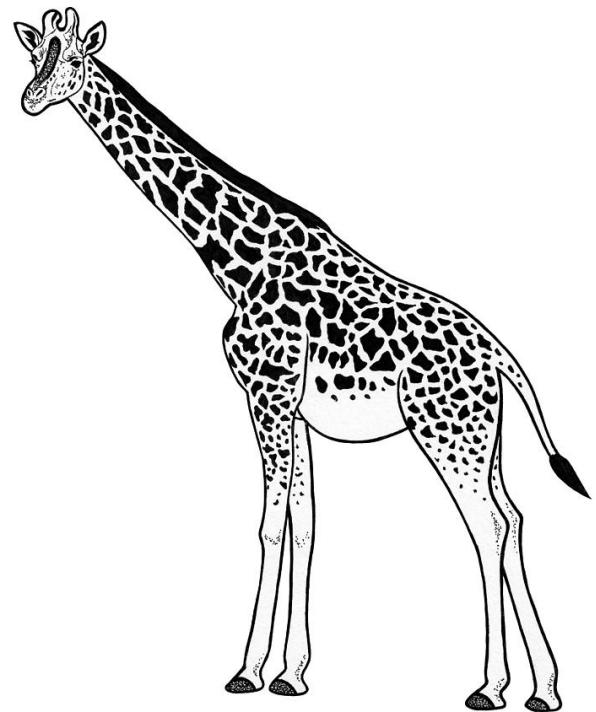
odzōtgä:'



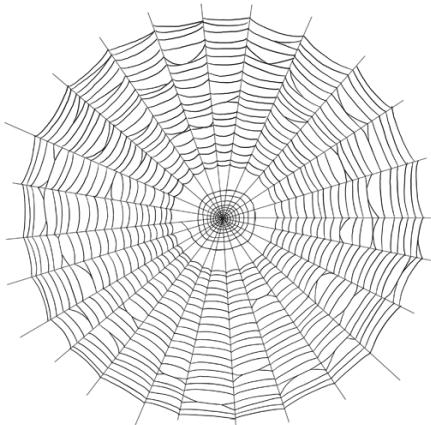
gadzë'



gwa'yo:'

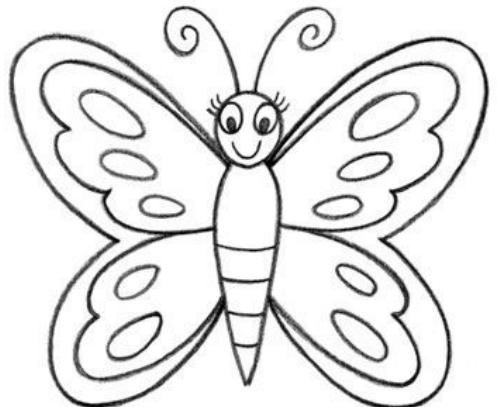


ga:nyá'se:s



odá'ä:dö'

Long vowel
(lengthens the sound of
a vowel)



ojí'danö:wë:'

ye:i'

Wi:yo:h

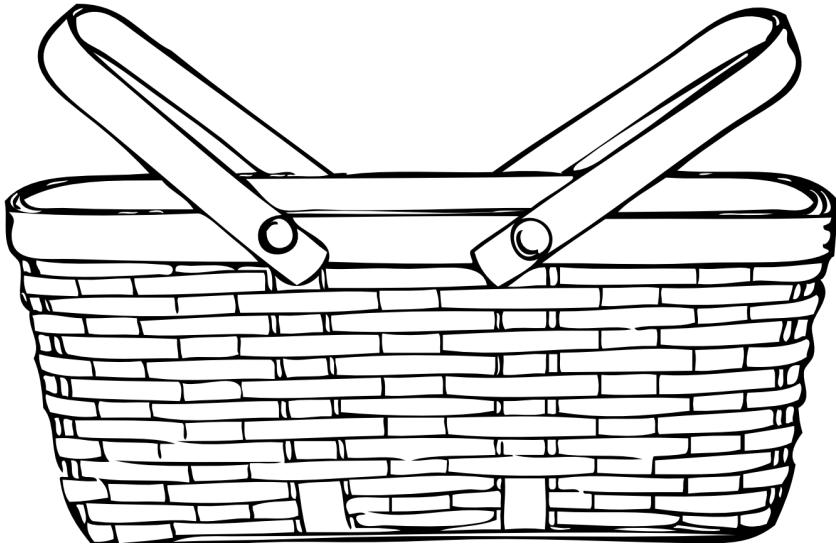
ä:’

Ga:jih

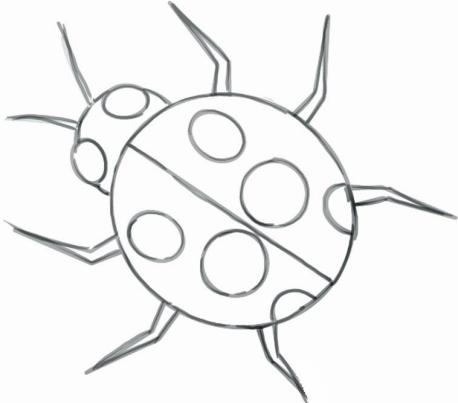
de:sek

wë:nítši:yo:h

Akso:t



ga' áshä'



o' no:wa'



Glottal
(indicates an abrupt stop,
middle of uh-oh)

Ta'gë:öh

No'yëh

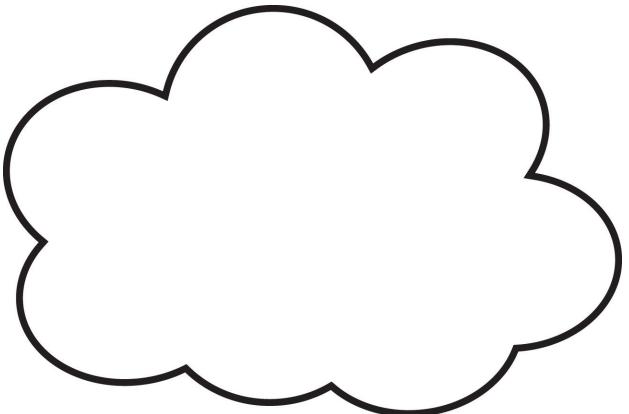
Ha'nih

go'geh

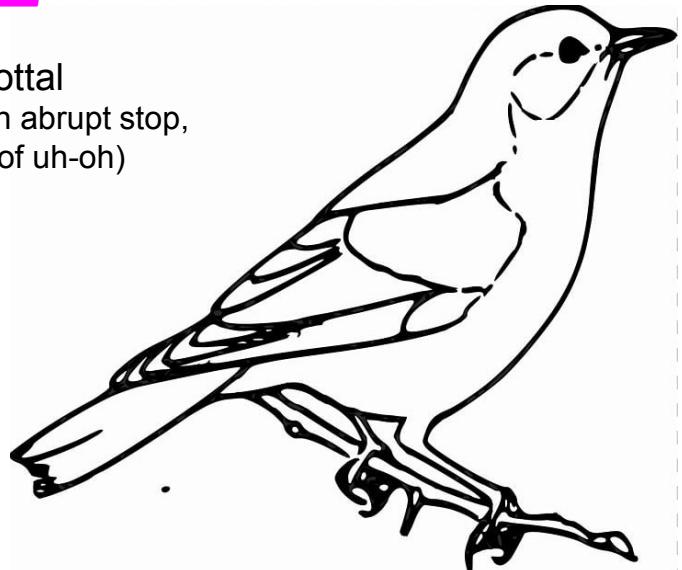
o'da'

ye:i'

ää:



ohjí'gä'



jí'dë'ö:h