

SAMMY



DENA'INA ATHAPASKAN



Originally developed by the Staff of the National Bilingual Materials Development Center, Rural Education Affairs, University of Alaska.

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Pronunciation Guide

There are a few things to keep in mind when looking at the sounds of Dena'ina. Although many of the sounds are very similar to those of English, some of the consonants used in the Dena'ina alphabet represent sounds which do not occur in English.

The apostrophe indicates a glottal stop or "catch in the throat". This sound occurs in the middle of the English exclamation, 'uh - oh'.

Following certain symbols, the apostrophe indicates **glottalized** sounds. These sounds are characterized by a popping sound. The consonants *t'*, *tl'*, *ts'*, *ch'*, *k'*, or *q'* are all glottalized consonants.

You can practice these consonants by starting to make the sound, but not letting the air release, instead letting the air build up in the back of your throat. Then quickly release the air and you will hear the "ejective" sound that the release of the air makes.

The sound *t* is called a "**barred – l**" or voiceless – *l*. To understand what is meant by voiceless, think of the difference between *s* and *z*. *s* is a voiceless *z* as *t* is a voiceless *l*. If you put your hand on your throat and make a *z* sound you will feel some vibration. If you then made an *s*, you will not feel it. This vibration is your vocal cords/ fold swinging. This happens with all voiced consonants and vowels. For voiceless consonants, the vocal cords do not vibrate. Try saying *l* without vibration of your vocal cords, and you should say *t*. *t* is produced with the tongue in the same position as for English *l*, except rather than voicing the vocal folds, the air is allowed to escape around the sides of the tongue.

Pronunciation of some of the sounds in Dena'ina can vary depending on the sounds that surround them. One of these variations is **vowel lowering**. It is important to be aware of vowel lowering when learning to pronounce words in Dena'ina.

When the vowels *i* or *u* occur next to a back velar consonant (*gg*, *q*, *q'*, *gh*, *h*) they are lowered and are pronounced with the mouth more open and the tongue more lowered. *i* sounds more like the vowel in English word 'say', and *u* sounds more like the vowel in English word 'go'.

The classic example of vowel lowering is the distinction between the words *tik'a* meaning 'dog' and *tiq'a* meaning 'fish' in English. These two words sound as if they have a different vowel, but this difference is in fact caused by the influence of the following consonant: front velar in the case of 'dog', and back velar in the case of 'fish'.

Pronunciation Guide

| | | | |
|------------|--|-----------|--------------------|
| ' | like the sound in the middle of the interjection uh-oh. | sh'in | 'I don't know' |
| a | like the a in father or u in gut | al | 'trap' |
| ch | like the ch in children | chida | 'grandma' |
| ch' | glottalized ch | ch'da | 'blanket, robe' |
| d | like the d in dog | daz'i | 'fire' |
| dl | like the dl in paddle | dlina | 'mouse' |
| dz | like the ds in beads | dzastets' | 'boat' |
| e | like e in bet | el | 'spruce needle' |
| g | like the g in girl | giga | 'berry' |
| gg | like g but farther back in the mouth. | ggagga | 'bear, animal' |
| gh | similar to gg but a "soft" continuous sound not stopped | gheljay | 'moon' |
| h | similar to English h but further back in the throat. | haʔ | 'pack' |
| hh | like h in hat | hhay | 'whew!; relief' |
| i | like the ee in see or i in sit | ida | 'friend' |
| j | like j in joke | jani | 'today' |
| k | like k in kid | ken | 'flat or flatland' |
| k' | glottalized k | k'etnu | 'river, creek' |
| l | like l in like | luts'egh | 'ring' |
| ɬ | a voiceless l that is pronounced with the air released of the sides of the tongue. | ɬik'a | 'dog' |

Pronunciation Guide

| | | | |
|------------|---|----------|--------------------------|
| m | like m in milk | minṭni | 'water' |
| n | like n in night | nuti | 'salt' |
| q | similar to k but pronounced farther back in the mouth | qeshqa | 'rich man' |
| q' | glottalized q | q'in | 'fish eggs' |
| s | like s in sing | seṭ | 'moccasins' |
| sh | like sh in ship | shani | 'summer' |
| t | like t in top | ten | 'ice' |
| t' | glottalized t | t'ash | 'charcoal' |
| tl | similar the tl in butler, but the air is released off the sides of the tongue | tlegh | 'oil' |
| tl' | glottalized tl | tl'it | 'rope' |
| ts | like the ts in shuts. | tsayan | 'cliff' |
| ts' | glottalized ts' | ts'etq'i | 'one' |
| u | like the oo in book or boot | ush | 'snowshoes' |
| v | like the v in voice | ven | 'lake' |
| x | like h but not as far back in the throat | chix | 'red ochre, ochre plant' |
| y | like y in yes | yuq' | 'sky' |
| ŷ | similar to g but a "soft" continuous sound, not stopped | suŷ | 'sand' |
| z | like z in zoo | sez | 'belt' |
| zh | similar to the s in pleasure and confusion | ezhi | 'it's cold' |

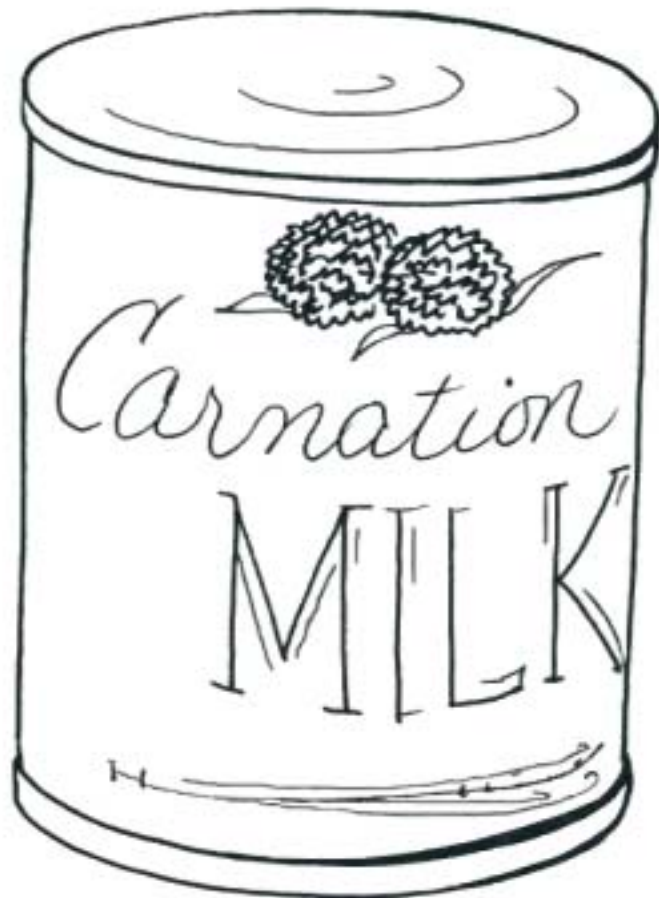


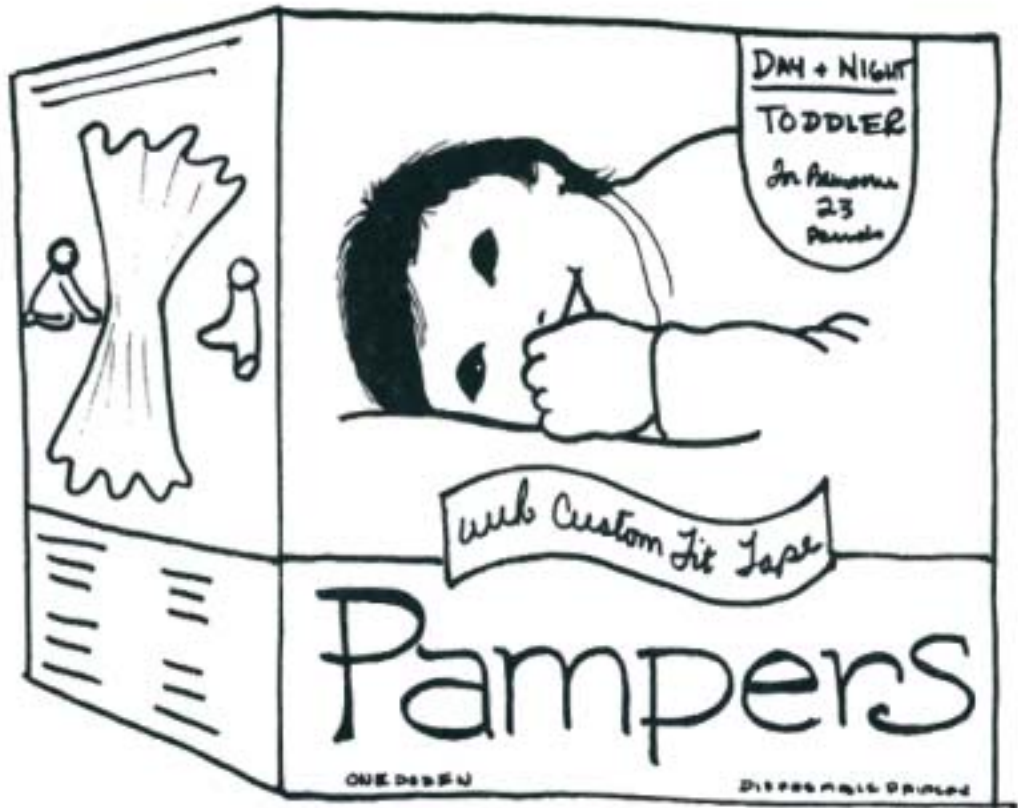
Gundi Sammy shin.
Lahgagh teyux.
Duntda nunetuh.
Detutda nunetuh.
Dedaja nunetuh.



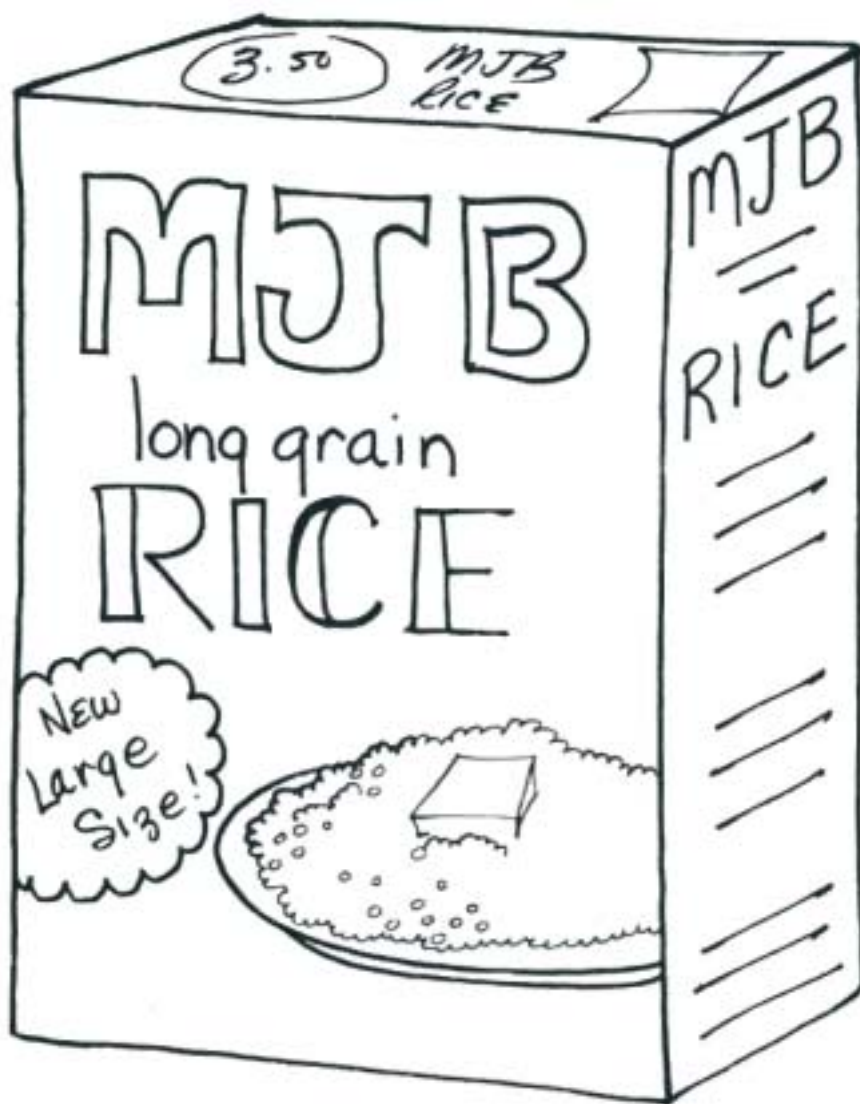
Sammy muga iqat.
Ena muga iquynizen.
Kliva nghelt'asi nizen
ghuda.

Sammy milugu iqat.
Ena milugu iquynizen.
Degguya ghuyulkitni milugu iquynizen.





Sammy k'jeŋa iqat.
Ena k'jeŋa iquynizen.
Degguya nuŋtu yiquynizen.



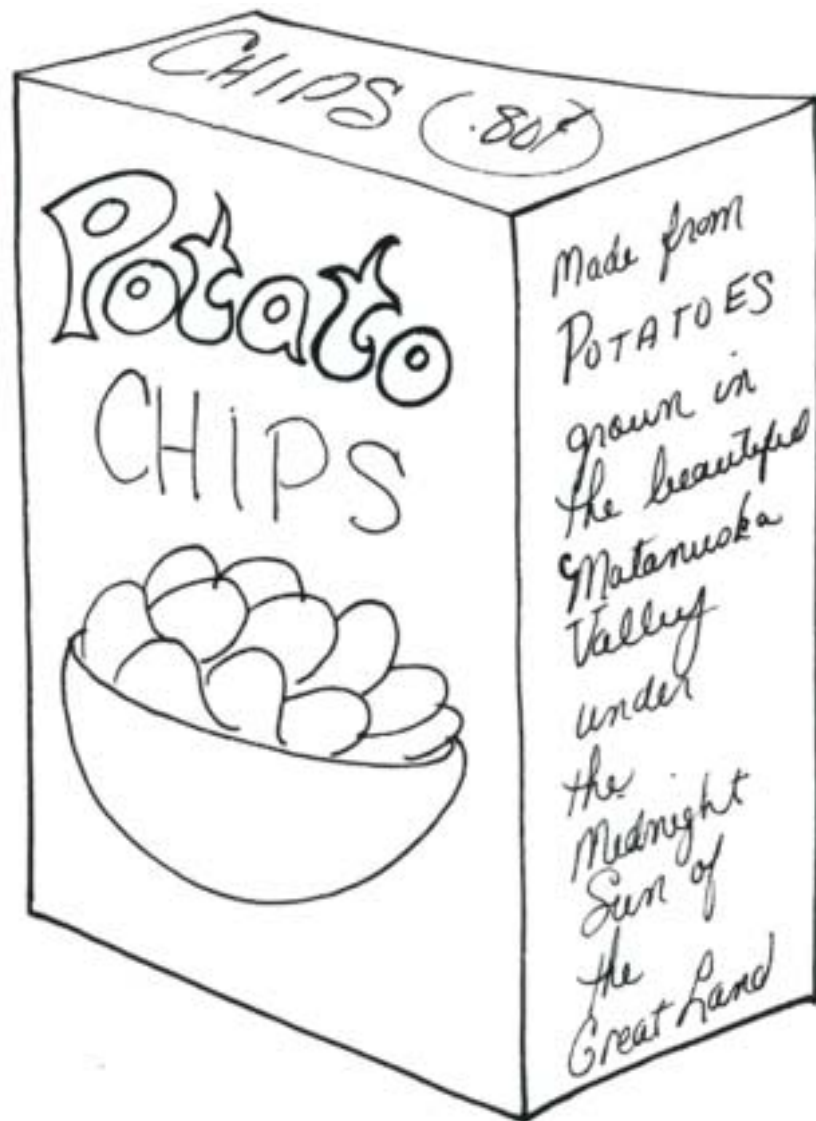
Sammy ghin'i qit'in iqat.
Ena ghin'i qit'in iquynizen.
K'gheshlach yenizen.

Sammy dghelneshi iqat.
Ena dghelneshi iquynizen.
Deguxi'a nuftu dghelneshi
iquynizen.



Sammy chayi iqat.
Ena chayi iquynizen.
Chida nuftu chayi iquynizen.





Sammy galduxa nghalch'ich'i iqat.
Vedaja yiquynizen.
Veł chayi gheslach yitni ghuda.

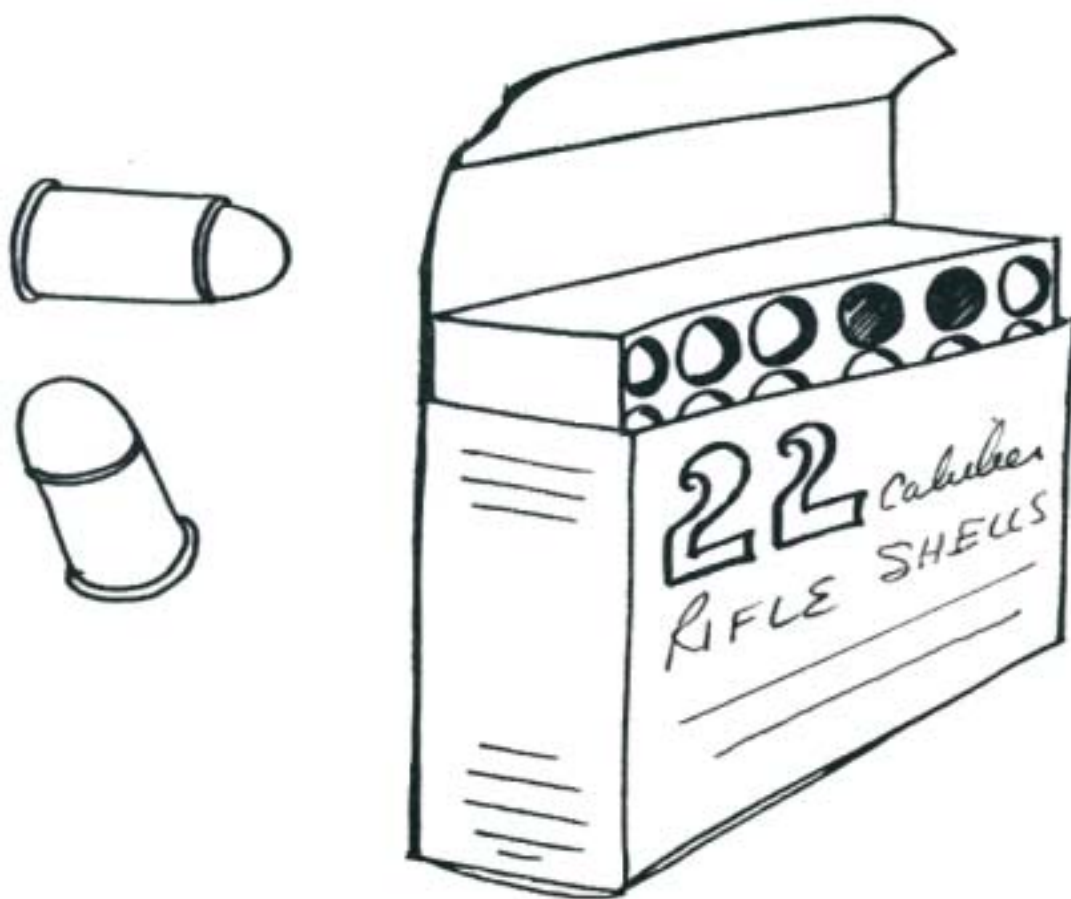


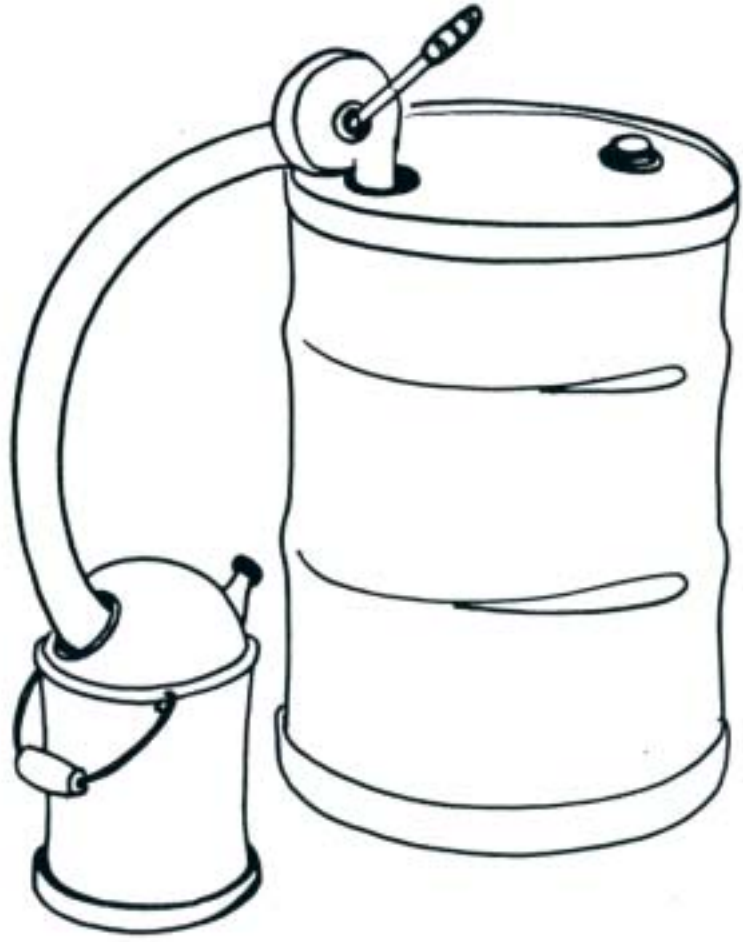
Sammy gigata'a i qat.
Vedaja yiquynizen.
Veŧ chayi tgheshlach yitni ghuda.

Sammy qeljayi iqat.
Vetutda yequynizen.
Tetsteh nułghet hghuda.



Sammy svinits iqat.
Vetutda yequynizen.
Shtungheshyu yenizen ghuda.





Sammy gas iqtat.
Dada gas yenizen.
Vargas nuftu yiquynizen.

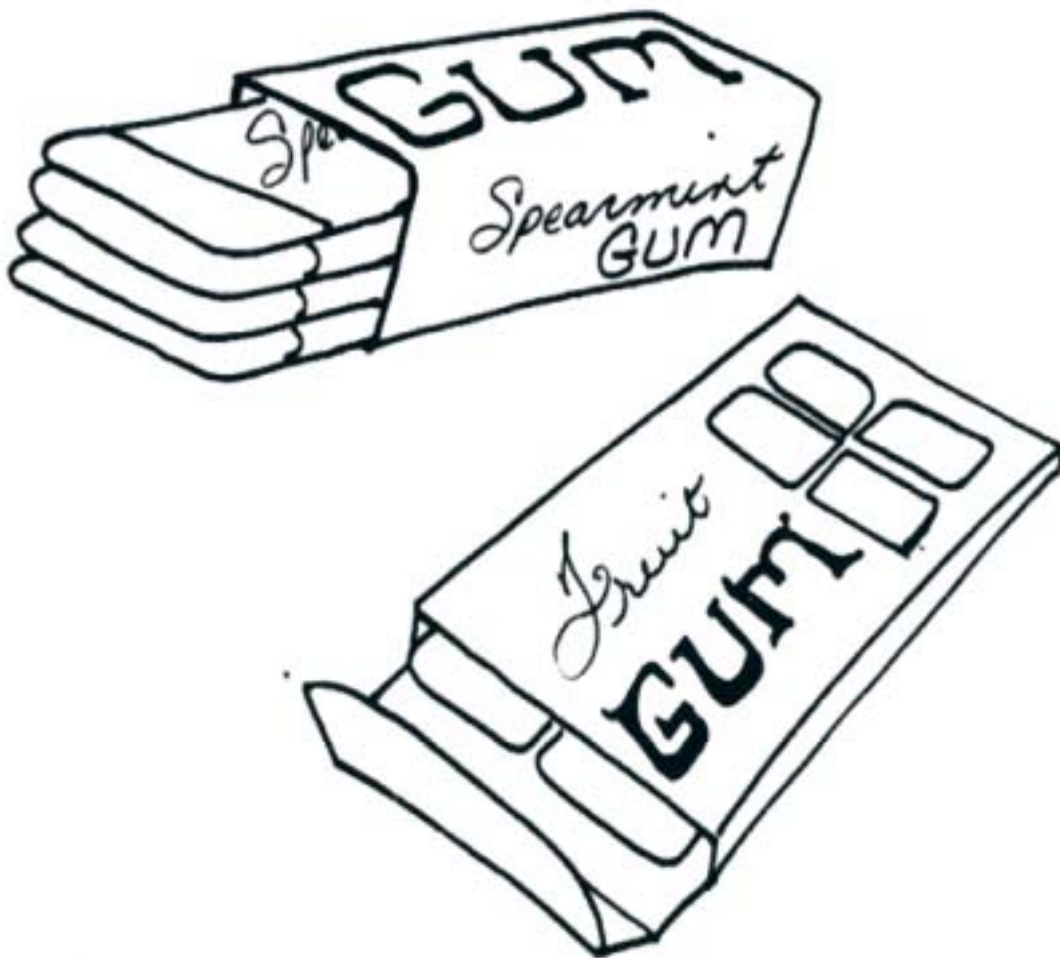


Sammy vargas gguya iquat.

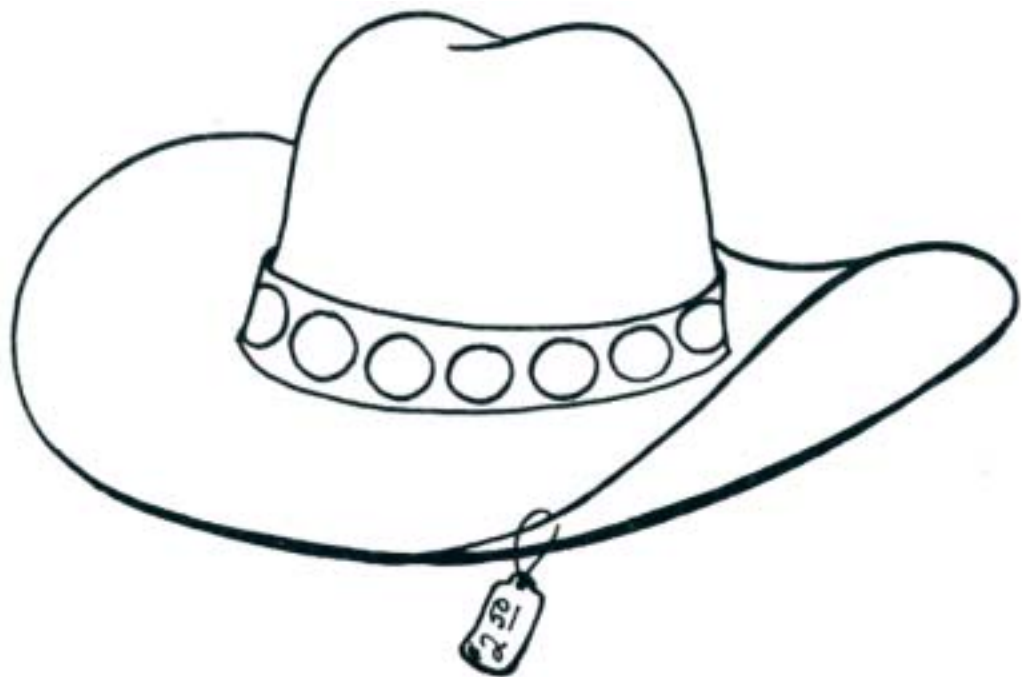
Vargas iquynizen.

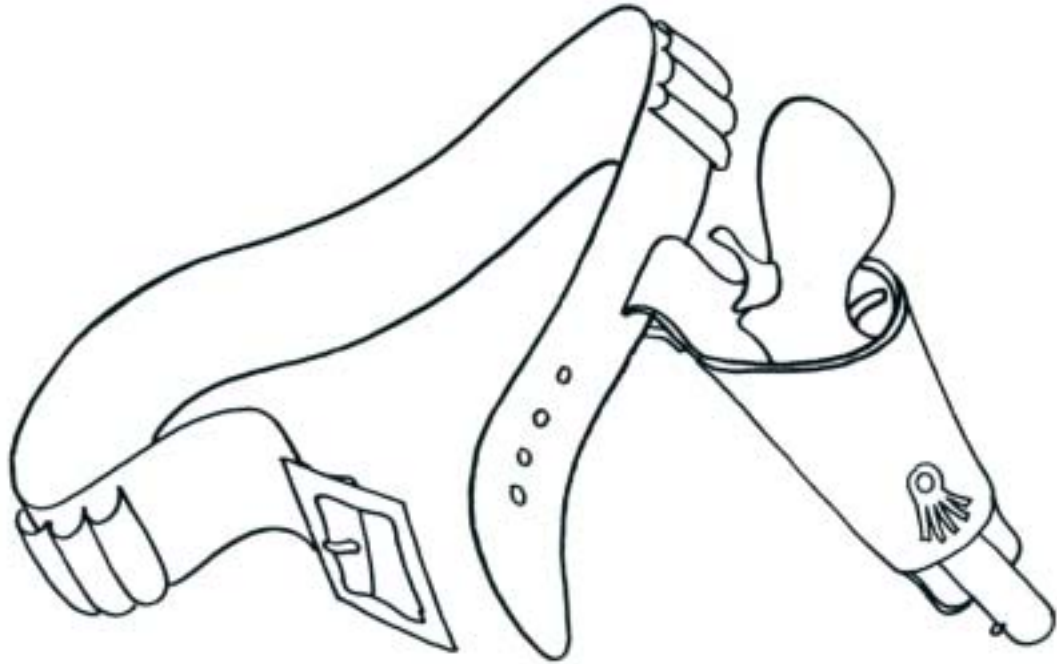
Chighel'ul yitni ghuda.

Sammy jah iqat.
Jah iquynizen.
Veľ dnayi nuľtu.



Sammy cowboy chik'ich'a iqat.
Nch'u cowboy chik'ich'a iquynizen.
Ndghel'u yitni.





Sammy nch'u izin isqat.
Izin iquynizen.
K'idiki dnikuh.



Sammy nutednax.
Duntda nunastun.
Dedaja nunastun.
Detutda nunastun.
Vechik'ich'a ghini ninł'an du?

Keywords

lahgagh

chayi

daja

chayi shdlach

muga

giga ta'a

kliva

qeljayi

milugu

izin svinidza

ghini

jah

dghelneshi

chik'ish

guxi

izin

- 1 This is Sammy.
He's going to the store.
He is helping his own mother.
He is helping his own father.
He is helping his own younger sister.
- 2 Sammy is buying flour.
Mom wants flour.
Because she wants to bake bread.
- 3 Sammy is buying milk.
Mom wants milk.
She wants to give milk to her child.
- 4 Sammy is buying diapers.
Mom wants diapers.
She wants them for her own child.
- 5 Sammy is buying rice.
Mom wants rice.
She wants to cook something.
- 6 Sammy is buying sugar.
Mom wants sugar.
She wants sugar for her coffee.
- 7 Sammy is buying tea.
Mom wants tea.
She wants tea for grandma.
- 8 Sammy is buying potato chips.
His younger sister wants them.
Because she intends to have a tea party–dinner with them.
- 9 Sammy is buying juice.
His younger sister wants it.
Because she intends to have a tea party–dinner with it.

- 10 Sammy is buying a flashlight.
His father wants it.
Because it gets dark at night.
- 11 Sammy is buying shells.
His father wants them.
Because he wants to go hunting.
- 12 Sammy is buying gas.
His uncle wants gas.
He wants it for the boat.
- 13 Sammy is buying a toy boat.
He wants a boat.
Because he intends to play with it.
- 14 Sammy is buying chewing gum.
He wants chewing gum.
For his relatives.
- 15 Sammy is buying a cowboy hat.
He doesn't want a cowboy hat.
He intends to wear it.
- 16 Sammy doesn't buy a gun.
He wants a gun.
It is too expensive.
- 17 Sammy is starting back
He helped out his own mother.
He helped out his own younger sister.
He helped out his father.
Do you see his hat?



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CENTER

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