

innu-aimun
spelling
guide



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spelling
guide*

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Preface

What this guide is intended for. Should only be as long as one of these short pages.

Things to do:

Need to decide how to order the pages. They are not in a principled order currently. But strict alphabetical order by title might not be the most useful way. Think about it...

SHP (not SP)

Write **shp** instead of **sp**.



eshpish
tshishpeu



espish
tshishpeu

SHT (not ST)

Write **sht** instead of **st**.



In some dialects, people say **uht**.

In other dialects, people say **ust**.

This is why the shared spelling uses **usht**.

SHK (not SK)

Write **shk** instead of **sk**.



NN (“innu” words)

In words that refer to groups of people,
write **nn** instead of **n**.



Innuat
Uashaunnnuat



Inuat
Uashaunnuat

NN (*numbers*)

Write **nn** in numbers based on 10:



kutunnnu
nishtunnnu
nishunnnu



kutunn
nishtunn
nishunn

5

NN (“u” ending)

When the -u ending is added to a word that ends with **n**, write **nn**.



aunnu
tshekuannu
takuannu
utapannu



aunu
tshekuanu
takuanu
utapanu

NT (inside a word)

The **nt** sound is never written as “**nt**”.
It is always broken up by putting in a vowel.

In the middle of words, write **nit** instead of **nt**.

✓	✗
nan <u>it</u> am	nan <u>nt</u> am
an <u>it</u> e	an <u>nt</u> e
tshissen <u>it</u> am	tshissent <u>nt</u> am
kapimipan <u>it</u>	kapimipant <u>nt</u>

NT (at *beginning*)

When the **nt** sound is at the beginning of the word,
sometimes it is written as **nat**:

✓	✗
<u>nat</u> kun	<u>nt</u> kun
<u>nat</u> unitam	<u>nt</u> unitam

Other times it is written as **nit**:

✓	✗
<u>nit</u> kushin	<u>nt</u> kushin

MIP (not MP)

Write **mip** instead of **mp**:



pimipanu
mipua
kapimipanit



~~pim~~ipanu
~~mp~~ua
kapimipanit

PIM (not PM)

Write **pim** instead of **pm**:



pimi

pimuteu

kapimipanit



~~p~~mi

~~p~~muteu

ka~~p~~mpanit

TSHISH (not TSH)

In some words, the **tshe** sound is written as **tshishe**:

✓	✗
<u>tshishe</u> -utshimau	<u>tshe</u> -utshimau
<u>tshishennu</u>	<u>tshe</u> nnu
<u>mitshishu</u>	<u>mitshu</u>
shut <u>tshishi</u> un	shut <u>tshe</u> iun
shet <u>tshishu</u>	shet <u>tshe</u> u

TSHISS (not SS)

At the beginning of words, write **tshiss** instead of **ss**:



tshissenitam^u
tshissenimeu
tshissenitakuan



ssenitam^u
ssenimeu
ssenitakuan

TSHIT (not ST)

At the beginning of words, write **tshit** instead of **st**:

✓	✗
<u>tshit</u> tuten	<u>st</u> tuten
<u>tshit</u> apuen	<u>st</u> apuen
<u>tshit</u> apatshit <u>an</u>	<u>st</u> apast <u>an</u>

As **tshitapatshitan** shows, sometimes this rule applies in the middle of the word as well. FIX

AI (not EI)

In many common words, the **ei** sound is written as **ai**:



aimu
Innu-aimun
mashinaaikan



eimu
Innu-eimun
mashineeikan

K + small u

Words that end with a “kw” sound
are written with k^u:



IK^u (not UK^u)

Words that end with the **uk^u** sound
are usually written with **ik^u** instead:

✓	✗
mishtik ^u	mishtuk
minishtik ^u	minishtuk

One common exception is **muk^u**,
which is written with **uk^u**.

IM^u (not UM)



Many words that end with the **um** sound
are written with **im^u**:

✓	✗
pish <u>im</u> ^u	pish <u>um</u>
atim ^u	at <u>um</u>

Most words that act this way are nouns
(words that name people, places, or things).
[is this true?]

AM^u (not UM)

Verbs (action words) ending with the **um** sound
are written with **am^u**:

	
<u>uapatam^u</u>	<u>uapatum</u>
<u>tshissenitam^u</u>	<u>tshissenitum</u>

Small u (numbers)

The numbers **1**, **2**, and **3** are written with a small **u**.
So is the quantity word **tat^u**.

✓	✗
peik ^u	peik
nish ^u	nish
nisht ^u	nisht
tat ^u	tat

SS (not S)

Rule(s)?

SHT in numbers

The numbers **6** and **7** are pronounced with **ss** at the end, but are written with **sht**.

✓	✗
<u>kutuasht</u>	<u>kutuass</u>
<u>nishuasht</u>	<u>nishuass</u>

Initial A

Some common words are written with an **a** at the beginning, even though it is not usually pronounced.



atik^u

atim^u

auen

anite



~~t~~ik^u

~~t~~im^u

~~u~~en

~~n~~te

AKAN (not AN)

In certain words, **akan** is written, even though only **an** is pronounced.



tetapuakan
mitshishuakan
uatshinakan



tetapuan
~~mitshishu~~an
~~uatshin~~an

Silent vowels

In some words, vowels are written even though they are not pronounced.

✓	✗
<u>e</u> kue	kue
et <u>a</u> tu	etu
pit <u>y</u> tsheu	pitsheu

Plural nouns

Plural nouns refer to more than one person.
The plural ending is always spelled as **at**,
even if the **a** is not pronounced.



innuat
utshimauat
teueikanat



~~innut~~
~~utshimaut~~
~~teueikant~~

UA (not U)

In certain common words, the **u** sound is spelled **ua**:



takuan
eukuan
tshissenitakuan



~~tak~~un
~~euk~~un
~~tshissenitak~~un

hyphens

Hyphens are used in words that begin with **mishta-**, **matshi-**, and **tshishe-** and some others.

✓	✗
mishta-shipu	mishta shipu mishtashipu
matshi-tshishikau	matshi tshishikau matshitshishikau
tshishe-utshimau	tshishe utshimau tshisheutshimau

Spaces

The following small words are always written on their own, followed by a space:

anite	nasht	tshika	ui
e	tshe	tshika tshi	ut
e tshi	tshe ishi	tshipa	
ka	tshetshi	tshipa tshi	
katshi	tshi	ua	



ua mishkutinikan
tshe ui tain



uamishkutinikan
tsheui tain

Plural pronouns

Pronouns have special plural forms.
These forms are written with silent vowels.



netshenat
anitshenat
auenitshenat



~~netshent~~
~~antshent~~
~~auentshent~~

UME (not MUE)

The word that means “this” is written **ume**,
even though it is pronounced **mue**.

✓	✗
ume	mue
umenua	muenua

TSHIN (not TIN)

In many words -tshin- is pronounced as 'tn' but it should always be written as 'tshin'.



uatshinakan
takuatshin



~~uatnakan~~
~~takuatn~~