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Naskapi Style & Spelling Guidelines

A resource manual for Naskapi written communication

Naskapi Development Corporation
Translation and Linguistics Services Department

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Naskapi Development Corporation
Société de devéloppement des Naskapis

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Naskapi Style & Spelling Guidelines
A resource manual for Naskapi written communication

written and compiled by

the Naskapi Development Corporation
Translation and Linguistics Services Department

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Naskapi Development Corporation
Société de devéloppement des Naskapis

Dedicated to:

Naskapi readers and writers,
past, present and future

Contents of this book:

ᑳᒥᓯᓈᐃᒌᒑᐱᔨᒡ *kaamisinaahiichaapiyich* nip (noun, inanimate, participle)

This is the Naskapi word for 'computer', also the word for 'typewriter'. The parts of the word describe what it is and what it does:

kaa- prefix (part added to the beginning of a word) that creates a noun from a verb, meaning **"the one or the thing that does this"**

misin--aahii root (main part of a word) for **"to write or draw"**

-chaa suffix (part added at the end of a word) for **"perform an action"**

-piyi suffix for **"spontaneous"** (it does it itself)

-ch suffix for **"plural"**

We used ᑳᒥᓯᓈᐃᒌᒑᐱᔨᒡ in the title of this book because this is how we write in Naskapi now, and because it shows how *flexible* and *alive* the Naskapi language is. A computer can be used to produce books and letters, to do math, to send and receive messages and look up information on the Internet. With the tools in this book we can do all those things in Naskapi, too.

Introduction

Naskapi is spelled in syllabics, influenced originally and primarily by the spelling of early Cree language religious literature, especially the Horden Moose Cree (New Testament, Old Testament Lessons, Prayer Book and Psalms) and Walton Great Whale River Cree (Common Prayer and Hymns, Gospel of John).

At the same time, Naskapis who learned to read and write this way also used syllabics for personal communication, letters, diaries and memos, dating back to the early years of the 20th century.

A distinctive writing system evolved that was different from its Cree origins and more efficient for the users. The most striking and persistent difference between printed Cree in the religious literature and the way Naskapi came to be written is the placement and purpose of the dots. "Long" vowels are not indicated with a dot over the character like Cree does: the word for 'water' *nipiy* ᓂᐱᕝ and the word for 'leaf' *niipiy* ᓂᐱᕝ are spelled the same, even though their sounds are different. A Naskapi reader can tell from the context, the meaning of the surrounding words, which vowels are long and which are short.

In recent times, the NDC Translation and Language Department, in consultation with Naskapi elders, has endeavoured to standardize the spelling of the Naskapi language in translated and published works. Most important is the Naskapi Lexicon, published in 1994, and the translation of Naskapi Bible portions in the years following. This document is a working record of many items that contribute to the emerging standard. This is also the set of guidelines for Naskapi spelling that was followed during the final editing stages of the Naskapi New Testament.

It should also be noted here that the spelling standards have *changed* since the publication of the 1994 edition of the Lexicon, so this document supersedes that one.

The other important thing to be noted is that these are *guidelines* not hard-and-fast rules. Our goals in choosing these was to come up with a consensus that reflects a **consistent** and **reasonable** (and sometimes) **traditional** spelling of Naskapi words.

Naskapi Style & Spelling Guidelines

Traditional and Standard Spelling

Let's all try to use *standard* or *traditional* spelling whenever possible. Send any more suggestions to us at the NDC language department. We constantly review these suggestions with the elders and others.

Words having to do with *prayer, worship, church* or *priest* should use the <u>traditional</u> spelling, as follows:

Traditional Spelling	*Non-standard*	
⊲�541⊲°	∆L° or ∆L⊲°	'pray'
⊲541⊲⊳ΓL⊳°	∆L⊳ΓL° or ∆L⊲⊳ΓL°	'priest'
⊲541⊲⊳Γ⋖<	∆L⊳Γ⋖< or ∆L⊲⊳J⋖<	'church'
⊲541⊲₋°	∆L₋° or ∆L⊲₋°	'prayers'

We do this to distinguish these words from other words that have to do with *speaking* or *talking*:

Standard Spelling	*Non-standard*	
∆ᐝJ°	∆J° or ∆J⊳°	'speak'
∆ᐝJ⊳ᵃ	∆Jᵃ or ∆J⊳ᵃ	'word'
∆ᐝΓ⊲°	∆L⊲° or ∆Γ⊲°	'he speaks to him'
⊲ᐝJL°	∆JL° or ∆ᐝJL°	'he talks about him'

There are some words that begin with ∩ in the traditional spellings, but people often tend to leave off this letter. Here are some common guidelines to follow:

The words having to do with *know*, *teach*, *poor,* and *mercy* words <u>keep</u> the first ∩

Standard Spelling	*Non-standard*	
∩ᐝᑲᐝL°	ᐝ∆L° or ᐝᑲ∆L°	'know him'
∩ᐝᑲᐝ∩�L	ᐝ∆CL or ᐝᑲ∆∩L	'know it'
∩ᐝᑯ∩Lᑕ°	ᐝᑯ∩Lᑕ°	'he teaches'
∩ᐝᑯ∩Lᑭ°	ᐝᑯ∩Lᑭ°	'he goes to school'
∩ᐝ∩L∩ᑭ°	ᐝ∩L∩ᑭ°	'he is poor'
∩ᐝ∩Lᑲ∆ᑐ⋖°	ᐝ∩Lᑲ∆ᑐ⋖°	'he shows compassion, mercy'

There are many words that many writers have been used to spelling with ∆ in the middle, but we have decided to spell these with ᑲ which better reflects the real sound and traditional spelling of the word.

Preferred Spelling	*Old spelling*	
∩ᐝᑲᐝ∩L	∩ᐝᑲ∆∩L or ᐝᑲ∆∩L	'she/he knows it'
∩�535L⋖ᑲᐝ∩ᑐ⊳ᵃ	∩�535L⋖∆∩ᑐᵃ	'peace'
Γ:�537ᑲ∩L	Γ:�537∆∩L	'she/he likes it, she/he is happy'

Personal Pronouns

Words like: *You, Me, Him/Her.* When these occur as a <u>separate word</u>, spell as follows with the *"y"* character at the end.

Right Spelling	Wrong spelling	
ᒋᔾ	ᒋ	'you'
ᓂᔾ	ᓂ	'me, I'
ᐧᐊᔾ	ᐧᐊ	'him, her'

Possessed Nouns:

Words like: *Yours, Mine, and His/Hers.* We spell these by adding ᒋ, ᓂ, or ▷ to the noun, with <u>no space</u> between the word and the person marker *(except see next item!)*.

Right Spelling	
ᒋᒥᔾᐊᐃᑭᐁ	'your book'
ᓂᒥᔾᐊᐃᑭᐁ	'my book'
▷ᒥᔾᐊᐃᑭᐁ	his book

Nouns that begin with a vowel other than *u* use a connecting sound -*t*- between the person and the word.

Preferred Spelling	How to type this	
ᐊᐸᐃᑭᐁ	`aapaaikin`	'screwdriver'
ᒋ�cᐊᐸᐃᑭᐁ	`chit_aapaaikin`	'your screwdriver'
ᓂcᐊᐸᐃᑭᐁ	`nit_aapaaikin`	'my screwdriver'
▷cᐊᐸᐃᑭᐁ	`ut_aapaaikin`	'his screwdriver'

See the single *thin space* between the ᶜ and the word in the preferred spelling column? You type this using the Naskapi Keyboard by pressing the "dash" key while holding down the "Shift" key at the same time (type an underscore).

Note that this is the preferred spelling. You will find other people spelling these words the other way, but it makes it harder for reading The main idea is to make the main word easier to see:

Do it this way	Don't do it this way	
ᒋᶜ ᐊᐸᐃᑭᐁ	ᒋcᐊᐸᐃᑭᐁ	'your screwdriver'
ᓂᶜ ᐊᐸᐃᑭᐁ	ᓂcᐊᐸᐃᑭᐁ	'my screwdriver'
▷ᶜ ᐊᐸᐃᑭᐁ	▷cᐊᐸᐃᑭᐁ	'his screwdriver'
ᒋᶜ ᐊᔨᒍᐅᐁ	ᒋᑎᒍᐅᐁ	'your word'
ᓂᶜ ᐊᔨᒍᐅᐁ	ᓂᑎᒍᐅᐁ	'my word'
▷ᶜ ᐊᔨᒍᐅᐁ	▷ᑎᒍᐅᐁ	'his word'
ᓂᶜ ᐊᐧᐋᔅᒥᒡ	ᓂᒍᐧᐋᔅᒥᒡ	'my children'
▷ᶜ ᐊᐧᐋᔅᒥL	▷ᒍᐧᐋᔅᒥL	'his child'

Verbs with person markers

This is also the way we spell **verbs** that use the same person markers, ONE thin space after ᶜ:

Do it this way	*Don't do it this way*	
ᒥᶜ ⊲ᔑᐁ᙮<Ცₐₒᵒ	ᒥᑕᔑᐁ᙮<Ცₐₒᵒ	'we wait for it'
ᓂᶜ ⊲ᐱᒥᑕᵃ	ᓂᑕᐱᒥᑕᵃ	'I use it'
ᓂᶜ ⊲ᔭᒫᐸᑕᵃ	ᓂᑕᔭᒫᐸᑕᵃ	'I worry about it'
ᓂᶜ ᐃᑕᐸᑕᵃ	ᓂᑎᑕᐃᑕᵃ	'I think'

Future tense

In Cree, they commonly used ᓂᑊ and ᒥᑊ to mean: 'I will, you will, he will' etc. But in Naskapi these should be spelled ᓂᑊ and ᒥᑊ, *written together* as one preverb (no space between ᒥ and ᑊ), and followed by two thin spaces (not a full space).

Do it this way	*Don't do it this way*	
ᒥᑊ ᒾᔭᑎᵃ	ᒥᑊ ᒾᑎᵃ or ᒥᑊᒾᑎᵃ	'I will give you'
ᓂᑊ ₐᓂᒍᒾᐱᒪᵒ	ᓂᑊ ₐᵃᒍᒾᐱᒪᵒ	'I will look for/meet him'

Past tense

In Cree, they have used ᒥᒥ to mean: ᒥ (past tense) and ᒥ (you) etc. But in Naskapi it has become common practice to spell this ᔅᒥ, followed by two thin spaces, as follows:

Current practice	*Sometimes also found*	
ᔅᒥ ᒥᔅᒪᑕᵃ	ᒥᒥ ᒥᔅᒪᑕᵃ (never ᔅᒥᔅᒪᑕᵃ)	'you knew it'
ᔅᒥ ᑭₒᐁ᙮ᔭᒥₐᐁ᙮ᵒ	ᒥᒥ ᑭₒᐁ᙮ᔭᒥₐᐁ᙮ᵒ	'you took care of me'

Common Spelling of some Small Words and Preverbs

Many small words in Naskapi have been spelled inconsistently. This makes reading harder because often the two spellings of the words mean two different things!

ᔅᔅ is an adverb that means "already" or "yet". It can be heard pronounced *chaash*, but don't spell it this way: ᒪᔅ always spell it the other way: ᔅᔅ.

ᐃᔅ is a <u>preposition</u> that means "toward" usually used with place nouns, like in ▷Ცₐᵇ ᐃᔅₓ 'toward town'. But often, people write the <u>preverb</u> ᐃᔑ 'thus, the way it is' the same way.

So instead, when you mean "toward" or "into" or "through" (a preposition), let's spell it ᐃᔅ but when you mean "thus, the way it is" (a preverb, connected to a verb), let's spell it ᐃᔑ. For example, ᑕᵃ ᑊ ᐃᔑ ᐁ᙮<ᑎᒥᵃ ᑭᔅ ᑊ ᐃᔑ <ᑎᒥᵃ '...how you have thus seen and thus heard.' Remember that ᐃᔑ "thus" can also sometimes alone as a word when it's not part of a preverb string, that is, when it does NOT follow a tense or person marking preverb.

By the way, there is another word (an interjection) that means "I wonder", that is also spelled ᐃᔅ . So remember, preverbs are often attached to verbs with the "thin space" as above (also see the section on thin non-breaking spaces below) . Bur particles, interjections and prepositions are *never* attached.

⊲ᑎ is a <u>preverb</u> that means roughly "although" or "even though". Sometimes this has been spelled ⊲ᶜ, or even combined with other tense preverbs to make contractions like ᒥᶜ (ᒥ+⊲ᶜ). We prefer to spell these out, like this: ᒥ ⊲ᑎ, with one thin space between the two preverbs. Remember that ⊲ᑎ can also stand alone as a word when it's not part of a preverb string, that is, when it does NOT follow a tense or person marking preverb.

Don't use ᐊᕓ for "him" or "this / these". ᐊᕓ is "him", but ᐅᕓ is "this / these". These are individual words. Also, ᐊ by itself (without the ᕓ) is a preverb that marks future tense, or a "volitional" preverb, meaning "want, desire" or "will". It is connected to the verb with a thin space. Sometimes this preverb is spelled ᐋ (called the "changed form") when it is the first preverb in the verb-string. Compare these two sentences: � ᐊ ᓂᑲᓂᐱᐊᕆᑦ 'he wants to be first', ᐋ ᒋᔅᑯᔭᑎᒫ 'I want to know it'.

Some preverbs are somewhat less "connected" to the verb than others. For these, here is how you decide: IF they have a tense or person-marking preverb in front of them, you JOIN them to the preverb and the verb with thin spaces. BUT if they don't, you separate them, typing a full space after them (like a separate word).

Here are the preverbs that work that way: ᖫᕆ (continuous) 'to do', ᐸᕆ 'toward', 'after', ᒥᕆ 'bad', ᒥᕍ 'good', ᐊᑲ 'not' [neg], ᐊᒫ 'not' [neg], ᒥᕆᐋ 'all', ᒥᔅᑎ 'much', ᕆᔅ 'great', ᕆᐋ 'return' (as in *chiwaa-tipaamaachaan* 'pay back'), ᐈᕆ 'with'.

Do and Go, Be and Say (the initial ᐊ)

In Cree, the words meaning "do" and "he does it" *ihtuu / ihtuutam* and the word "be there/exist" *ihtaau / ihtakun* are spelled with a (usually silent) initial *ih*. In Naskapi, many readers have decided to drop this initial *ih* in most cases. However, in formal Naskapi writing and publications we normally spell the "do" word (and the "go" words) *with* the initial *ih* as in: ᐊᑐᑎᖾ, 'he does it', ᐊᑐᑕᐤ 'he goes there'.

The "be" words are spelled *without* the initial *ih* ᑕᐤ 'he is there', ᑎᑐᐯ 'it is there', but the "say" words are spelled *with* the initial *ih* ᐊᑕᐤ 'he says'. Mainly this helps readers tell the difference between "he is" ᑕᐤ and "he says" ᐊᑕᐤ.

That Single Dot

In Cree, they use an "h" character that looks like a quote mark, when they want to put in an "h", like this: ᐅᑎᕆᐸᔾᐸ"ᑎ. Naskapi writers would rarely use the "h", but sometimes you see it in words like ᓂ"ᐊ, 'yes'. By the way: You can type that kind of "h" using the Naskapi keyboard. Just type "h=" (h and "equal"). 'Yes' can be spelled with a "y" final and without the "h", ᓂᐊᕓ, but the other way is preferred.

Naskapi has *always* done things differently than Cree does with regard to the dots. It has been the practice of many elders who write the language to indicate 'soft k' with a left-dot *hkaa* and *hku* (and even *hk* and *hkw* at the end of words). You can hear that this is different from a regular *k* by listening to the words in the list below. This can be typed just as you would say it, typing the "h" right before "k":

Preferred Spelling	*How to type this*	
ᐊ ᐊᕆᓂ·ᑲᑕᔭᕊ	`kaa_isiniihkaataayich`	'it was named'
ᐊ·ᑲᓂᔅ	`wiihkaanisa`	'his relative'
ᔪ·ᑲᑎᕆᐅᐊ	`suuhkaatisiiun`	'strength'
ᐅᒡ ᐊᒪ·ᑯᕍᐋ	`ut_aachaahkuyuwa`	'his spirit'

In Cree of course the single dot in front means *"w"*, like ᒐ·ᐺ *taapwe*, but we do this in Naskapi with two dots, ᑕᐋ *taapwaa*. (except for ᐊ which only has one dot, but don't ask me why! It's just one of those things that makes Naskapi special!). So, in Naskapi don't use the single dot when you want the double dot, as follows:

Do it this way	*Don't do it this way*	
ᐸ:ᑲᔅᕆᐤ	ᐸ·ᑲᔅᕆᐤ	'bread'
ᐊ ᑯ:ᑲᕆᒪᕊ	ᐊ ᑯ·ᑲᕆᒪᕊ	'they asked him'

Once in a while you see the single dot at the beginning of a word. It is sometimes permissible to use it before ᖃ to mean *kwii,* but it is usually better to spell that sound like this ᑯᐃ or ᑯᐃ.

Sometimes	*But also (maybe better)*	
·ᖃᐃ·ᑯᵃ	ᑯᐃ·ᑯᵃ or ᑯᐃ·ᑯᵃ	'earthquake'
·ᖃːᑲᓚᵒ	ᑯᐃːᑲᓚᵒ	'wolverine'

Small Syllabics

We are trying to avoid, whenever possible, using these small syllabics ᒻ, ᵃ, ᑉ, ᵒ, in the beginning or middle of a word. Instead, use ᒋ, ᓯ, ᐱ, or ᐅ.

Do it this way	*Don't do it this way*	
ᓇᓯᑐᓇᐱᒪᑯ	ᓇᵃᑐᓇᐱᒪᑯ	'look for him'
ᐱᒋᐱᔦᵒ	ᐱᒻᐱᔦᵒ	'it runs, he goes by vehicle'

Various Things

Here are some common mistakes. Let's try to correct them:

Do it this way	*Don't do it this way*	
ᖃᔦ	ᖃᵞ	'and'
ᒋᔦ	ᓚᔦ	'already'
ᓇᒪ	ᒪᐋᐦ *(Montagnais)*	'no'
ᐃᔦᐱᐦ	ᐊᔦᐱᐦ *or worse* ᔦᐱᐦ	'anyway, still, nevertheless'
Do it this way	*Don't do it this way*	
ᒋᖃ ᖃᓇᐋᔪᓚᖃᓇᐦ (ᒋᖃ separated)	ᒋᖃᖃᓇᐋᐃᓚᖃᓇᐦ	'to be taken care of'
ᒋᒋᐋ	ᒋᒍᐋ	'really'
ᒋᒋᐋᑉ (and all -ᒋᐋᑉ words)	ᒋᒍᐋᑉ	'house, building'
ᐊᐋᵃ, ᐊᐋᔦᐋ	ᐅᐋᵃ, ᐅᐋᐱᐋ	'who'
ᐊᐋᔾ, ᐊᐋᔾᔦᐦ	ᐅᐋᔾ, ᐅᐋᔾᔦᐦ	'child, children'
ᓚ ᐊᑲᒋ ᐅᑕᑯ	ᓚᑲᒋᐅᑕᑯ	'don't do it'
ᒋᔦᒪᓯᑐᵒ	ᒋᔦᒪᵃᐅ, ᒋᔦᒋᵃᐅ, *or even worse* ᒋᒋᵃᐅ	'God'

Punctuation

Naskapi punctuation should be pretty much the same as you would use in English, including commas, colons, questions marks and exclamation points (, : ; ? !). Of course the Naskapi period is a little x (ₓ). We also encourage the use of quote marks, but use them right. Use the "curly quotes", not the "straight quotes": (") because the straight quotes look just like syllabic "h".

To type quotes on the <u>Naskapi keyboard,</u> use the "<" and ">" keys. (shift-comma and shift-period).

<< comes out as a double opening quote " and >> comes out as a double closing quote ". To get a single quote, just press the < or > key once. (quotes in the example below are bold for clarity)

Do it this way	
⊲� b Δᐟᒉᐟᔭᐟ, "ᐅ ᒉ<° ᒉᔭᐟ ᓂᒉ <ᒋᔭᒉᐱ ⊲ Δᐟᒉᔭᐟ, 'ᓂᕆᒉ ᓂᒉᐅᕈᒋᔭᐱ ᒉᔭᒉᓂᒋᐱ ᐅᕆᔭ⊲ᐝᒋ⊲ᐅᒋᔭᐟ, ᒉᐝ Lᐸ ᓂᔭᒋ ᒉᔭᐸᐱ Δᔭᐸ ᔭᐟ ᒉᐱ ᓂᒉᕆ ᐸᐸᐳᒋᔭᐸᐟ' "	And they said, "This man Jesus we heard saying, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it after three days.' "

We sometimes like to put one of those thin non-breaking spaces <u>between embedded quotes</u>, when the quote marks come together (a single quote followed by a double quote, like at the end of the example above.) Without the thin space it can look confusing, like too many quote marks in a bunch: ...ᔭᐟ ᒉᐱ ᓂᒉᕆ ᐸᐸᐳᒋᔭᐸᐟ'" See how the quote marks all bunch together at the end? Here's the same things with a thin space between: ...ᔭᐟ ᒉᐱ ᓂᒉᕆ ᐸᐸᐳᒋᔭᐸᐟ' "

It is also okay to use a thin space between the end of a sentence and a question mark or exclaimation point. But not before a comma, period, semi-colon or colon. Also, never type a thin space next to a dash.

Preverb Spacing and Connections *(suggestions and guidelines)*

The Naskapi language has lots of word-parts that are "connected to" the front of verbs (the left side). These prefixes are called preverbs. If the preverb and the verb are typed all as one word, it is harder to recognize the word. The main purpose of these rules is to make <u>reading easier</u>. Reading is easier when you can <u>recognize the word</u> faster. Often, this is easier to do when the <u>preverbs are separated</u> from the front of the verb, that way you can see what the word is.

In Cree, they have generally used one full space between preverbs and verbs, and full spaces between preverbs when there are more than one of them. The main trouble with this practice is that often the preverb can be left alone like an 'orphan' at the right end of the line, separated from it's own verb or main word that it should be connected to.

A standardized solution to this is to use the thin non-breaking space character[1] to connect preverbs to verbs. Remember, you can type this using the Naskapi keyboard by pressing the shift key with the dash key; that is, typing an "underscore" (_).

IN GENERAL, we use ONE thin space between each of the preverbs, and then TWO thin spaces between the preverbs and the main verb. Here are some illustrations:

One preverb:

b Δᐟᒉᐟᔭᐟ	kaa__ischiswaat	'he said'

Two preverbs:

ᒉ<ᒋ ᓂᒋᔭᐱᐸᒉᐟ°	chi_paachi__nituwaapimikuw	'they came to see him'

Three preverbs:

ᒋ<ᐱ Δᒉ ᐱᒉ⊲ᒉᐟ	chipa_wi_isi__wichiaanuch	'we (all) should help them'

You can see how the three preverbs are separated by ONE thin space between each one, and then the whole preverb "set" is separated from the main word by TWO thin spaces.

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[1] in Unicode, character code U+202F

The basic rules:

There are several types of preverbs. The ones to get to know are the ***person and tense markers***. These person markers and tense markers always come **first** in the string of preverbs:

Preverb (independent)	roman	meaning
σ‚ σᑭ‚ σᒋ‚ σ<	ni_, niki_, nichi_, nipa_	'I, I will, I did, I should'
ᒋ‚ ᒋᑭ‚ ᐢᒋ‚ ᒋ<	chi_, chiki_, schi_, chipa_	'you, you will, you did, you should'

Preverb (conjunct)	roman	meaning
◁‚ �L‚ ᐸ‚ ꞉ᐸ	aa_, chaa_, kaa_, kwaa_	'present, future, past, and next'
◁ᒋ‚ Lᒋ‚ ᐸᒋ‚ ◌̈◁ᒋ	aachii_, chaachii_, kaachii_, waachii_	'finished present (having done), continuous (to do), finished past (had done), reason'

The conjunct set that ends with ᒋ like ◁ᒋ 'having done', Lᒋ 'to do', ᐸᒋ 'had done', ◌̈◁ᒋ, 'reason' are all written as two words in Cree, but in Naskapi they are combined as one tense/aspect preverb unit. Of these, only Lᒋ 'to do' is ALWAYS written by itself separate as a single word.

Preverbs of obligation ᒋ< 'you should' and σ< 'I should' are treated like the temporal and personal preverbs. They are written as a unit, followed by a thin space.

Each of these <u>person marking</u> and <u>tense marking</u> preverbs listed above come **first** in a preverb string.

Next we have other kinds of preverbs, called ***modal preverbs***, that tell the <u>manner</u> of the action:

Modal Preverb	roman	meaning
∆ᔆ‚ ᐃ‚ ◁̇‚ ᒋ‚	isi_, wi_, waa_, chii_	'thus, intention, desire, ability'
▷ᒋ‚ ◁ᑯ‚ σᐟ‚	uhchi_, akaa_, nihtaa_	'source, not, never'
◁ᑎ‚ <ᒋ‚ ᐤᒋ‚	ati_, paachi_, naachi_,	'although, toward, go to do'
ᐤᒷ‚ ᑕ<‚	nama_, tapa_,	'not'

NORMALLY, all of these modal preverbs may function as words BY THEMSELVES. This means, they can have a normal space before and after them. **But,** whenever any of these kinds of preverbs come AFTER the ***person*** or ***tense marking preverb*** and BEFORE a verb (with the modal verb on the 'inside'), then it becomes part of the "preverb string" and is spaced with thin spaces.

Here are some other kinds of preverbs, called ***modifying preverbs***, that <u>evaluates</u> or modifies the action:

Modifying Preverb	roman	meaning
ᒥᕝ‚ ᒥᒋ‚ ◌̇∆ᒋ‚	miyu_, michi_, wichi_,	'good, bad, with'
ᒋᔅ‚ ᒋᒋ‚	chisa_, chichi_,	'supreme, great'

NORMALLY, *all* of these attach to the word that follows, and they almost NEVER happen BY THEMSELVES. This means, they usually have a normal space *before* them, and two thin spaces *after* them. But, whenever any of these kinds of preverbs come BETWEEN the ***person*** or ***tense marking preverb*** and the verb, it becomes part of the "preverb string" and is spaced with thin spaces, just like the modal preverbs.

SO, you should use thin spaces whenever you begin with a ***tense or person marking*** preverb (Except Lᒋ *chaachii*, as noted above.)

Here is a **chart** to illustrate how preverbs are connected to verbs with thin non-breaking spaces (the grey boxes represent a thin space): ▢

1) If there is only the ONE *tense or person marking* preverb and the verb, then you use TWO THIN SPACES:

Tense Marking Preverbs			Verb
σ, σᑭ, σᑎ, σ<, ᑎ, ᑎᑭ, ᐡᑎ, ᑎ<, ◁, ᒪ, ᑭ, :ᑭ, ◁ᑎ, ᒪᑎ, ᑲᑎ, ◌̈◁ᑎ			(any verb)

2) If there is another preverb AFTER the tense or person marking preverb and BEFORE the verb, you use ONE thin space between the preverbs, and TWO thin spaces before the verb:

Tense Marking Preverbs		Modal or Modifying Preverb			Verb
σ, σᑭ, σᑎ, σ<, ᑎ, ᑎᑭ, ᐡᑎ, ᑎ<, ◁, ᒪ, ᑭ, :ᑭ, ◁ᑎ, ᒪᑎ, ᑲᑎ, ◌̈◁ᑎ		ᐃᓭ, ◌̇◁, ◌̈◁, ᑎ, ᗰᑎ, ◁ᑭ, σᑕ, ◁∩, <ᑎ, ᕮᑎ, ᒐᐧ, ᒥᑎ, ◌̇◁ᑎ, ᑎᐢ, ᑎᑎ,			(any verb)

3) If there are two other preverbs BETWEEN the tense or person marking preverb and the verb, you use ONE thin space between the preverbs, and TWO thin spaces before the verb:

Tense Marking Preverbs		Modal Preverb		Modal or Modifying Preverb			Verb
σ, σᑭ, σᑎ, σ<, ᑎ, ᑎᑭ, ᐡᑎ, ᑎ<, ◁, ᒪ, ᑭ, :ᑭ, ◁ᑎ, ᒪᑎ, ᑲᑎ, ◌̈◁ᑎ		ᐃᓭ, ◌̇◁, ◌̈◁, ᑎ, ᗰᑎ, ◁ᑭ, σᑕ, ◁∩, <ᑎ, ᕮᑎ		ᐃᓭ, ◌̇◁, ◌̈◁, ᑎ, ᗰᑎ, ◁ᑭ, σᑕ, ◁∩, <ᑎ, ᕮᑎ, ᒐᐧ, ᒥᑎ, ◌̇◁ᑎ, ᑎᐢ, ᑎᑎ,			(any verb)

4) Sometimes, but very rarely, there are **four or more preverbs** in the string. The word gets <u>too long</u> at this point, so we will SPLIT the word with a "real" space after the <u>first three preverbs</u>:

Tense Marking Preverbs		Modal Preverb		Modal Preverb	*(space)*	Modal or Modifying Preverb			Verb
σ, σᑭ, σᑎ, σ<, ᑎ, ᑎᑭ, ᐡᑎ, ᑎ<, ◁, ᒪ, ᑭ, :ᑭ, ◁ᑎ, ᒪᑎ, ᑲᑎ, ◌̈◁ᑎ		ᐃᓭ, ◌̇◁, ◌̈◁, ᑎ, ᗰᑎ, ◁ᑭ, σᑕ, ◁∩, <ᑎ, ᕮᑎ		ᐃᓭ, ◌̇◁, ◌̈◁, ᑎ, ᗰᑎ, ◁ᑭ, σᑕ, ◁∩, <ᑎ, ᕮᑎ		ᐃᓭ, ◌̇◁, ◌̈◁, ᑎ, ᗰᑎ, ◁ᑭ, σᑕ, ◁∩, <ᑎ, ᕮᑎ, ᒐᐧ, ᒥᑎ, ◌̇◁ᑎ, ᑎᐢ, ᑎᑎ,			(any verb)

Notice that the verb itself still always has two thin spaces just before it.

Some Special Cases ᘈᕆ *chaachii*:

You have noticed that a lot of the modal or modifying preverbs can stand alone, like a normal "word" with real spaces on both sides of it. ONLY ONE of the ***tense marking*** preverbs can do this too:

ᘈᕆ *chaachii)* always stands alone, as a word by itself. It's kind of special that way. Also notice that ᘈᕆ, ᐊᕆ, ᑫᕆ, ᖋᕆ *(chaachii, aachii, kaachii* and *waachii)* are never written as two separate characters. Don't write "ᘈ ᕆ" or "ᑫ ᕆ". They have to stay together. Even though ᘈᕆ *chaachii* is written as a single word, it still starts a preverb string. That means, any other preverb that comes between it and the verb gets connected to the verb:

Chaachii	*(space)*	*Modal or Modifying Preverb*			*Verb*
ᘈᕆ, ᘈᐊᑫᕆ,		ᐃᕀ, ᐠᐃ, ᐧᖋ, ᕆ, ᐅᕆ, ᐊᑫ, ᓂᒉ, ᐊᑎ, ᐸᕆ, ᖑᕆ, ᒪ�, ᒥᕆ, ᐧᐃᕆ, ᕆᕠ, ᕆᕆ,			(any verb)

ᘈᕆ *chaachii* plus ᐊᑫ *akaa* 'not' combine to form ᘈᐊᑫᕆ *chaa_akaa_chii*. It works the same way as *chaachii,* standing alone (with a full space after) but with thin spaces between *chaa, akaa* and *chii.*

The Moose Cree and Great Whale River Cree Bible and Prayer Books used a normal "wide" space between the word and the preverb, even after pronouns like ᕆᑦ, ᓂᑦ, and ᐅᑦ. But this often left these standing as orphaned single words at the end of the line. On the other hand, the James Bay Cree New Testament usually just connects these to the word without *any* space, but that makes it much harder to read. Using the "thin space" is the best solution.

To sum up, remember this rule: to connect more than one preverb to a main word, use thin spaces <u>between each preverb</u>, then <u>two thin spaces</u> right before the main word.

Of course, you still use a normal space at the end of words.

Compound Words

For compound words (two words joined together, such as "shepherd" ᒪᕠᑕᓂᕠᐅ-ᐃᐧᐤ) it is best to join them with a dash OR to join them with ***two*** thin non-breaking spaces. Sometimes the compound word is too long, and must be broken. So a third option in those cases would be to use a normal full space. Some compounds lend themselves to joining and so have become permanently joined (lexicalised) into a single word, like "priest" (prayer-leader) ᐊᕠᒥᐊᐅᕆᒪᐤ. The main guideline to remember here is that we prefer NOT to use "only one" thin space in the middle of compound words.

Preferred Spelling *(dash)*	*How to type this*	
ᒪᕠᑕᓂᕠᐅ-ᐃᐧᐤ	`mayatanisiu-iyuw`	'shepherd' (sheep-person)
ᐅᑦ ᐊᕠᒥᐊᐅ-ᐱᒍᐃᐧᐧᓂᕆᐧᖋᐱᕀ	`ut_ayamiau-pichuwiyanichiwapihch`	'in his tabernacle' (his his prayer-tent)
ᐅᓂᑐᐱᕠᐅ-ᐃᕠᒧᐧᖋᐧᖋ	`unitupiyuuu-iyimuwawa`	'their soldiers' (their army-people)

Optional Spelling (two thin spaces)	How to type this	
ᒪᕌᑕᓂᓯᐅ ᐃᔪᐤ	`mayatanisiu__iyuw`	'shepherd' (sheep-person)
ᐅᑦ ᐊᕚᒥᐊᐅ ᐱᒍᐃ�ᓂᒋᐘᐱᑊ	`ut_ayamiau__pichuwiyanichiwapihch`	'in his tabernacle' (in his prayer-tent)
ᐅᓂᑐᐱᔪᐅ ᐃᔨᒍᕚᕚ	`unitupiyuuu__iyimuwawa`	'their soldiers' (their army-people)

Summary and Flexibility

As with all "guidelines" they are meant to be *flexible*, and are often in a state of change. These presented here will serve to assist us as guidelines, helping us work toward a coherent "standard", though we are not there yet.

Contact us at the NDC Translation and Linguistics Services Department if you have any suggestions.