

Chapter 5

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5.1 Syllabary Writing Practice

Exercise 5.1. Practice writing the letters “P”, “G”, “M”, “v”, “ʒ”, “O”, and “H” using the dictation practice audio. Refer to Figure 5.1 on the following page for the step by step diagrams showing how to write each letter. When doing your practice, be sure to sound out each letter as you write it. Remember to keep the tip of your tongue against your lower front teeth as you say aloud each letter.

5.2 Vocabulary

Exercise 5.2. Recognition and recall.

Start a new deck of vocabulary flash cards with the following vocabulary. With your study group, practice saying the Cherokee for the English, and the English for the Cherokee with the flash cards. Remember, “root” words cannot be used by themselves, they must be combined with a bound pronoun.

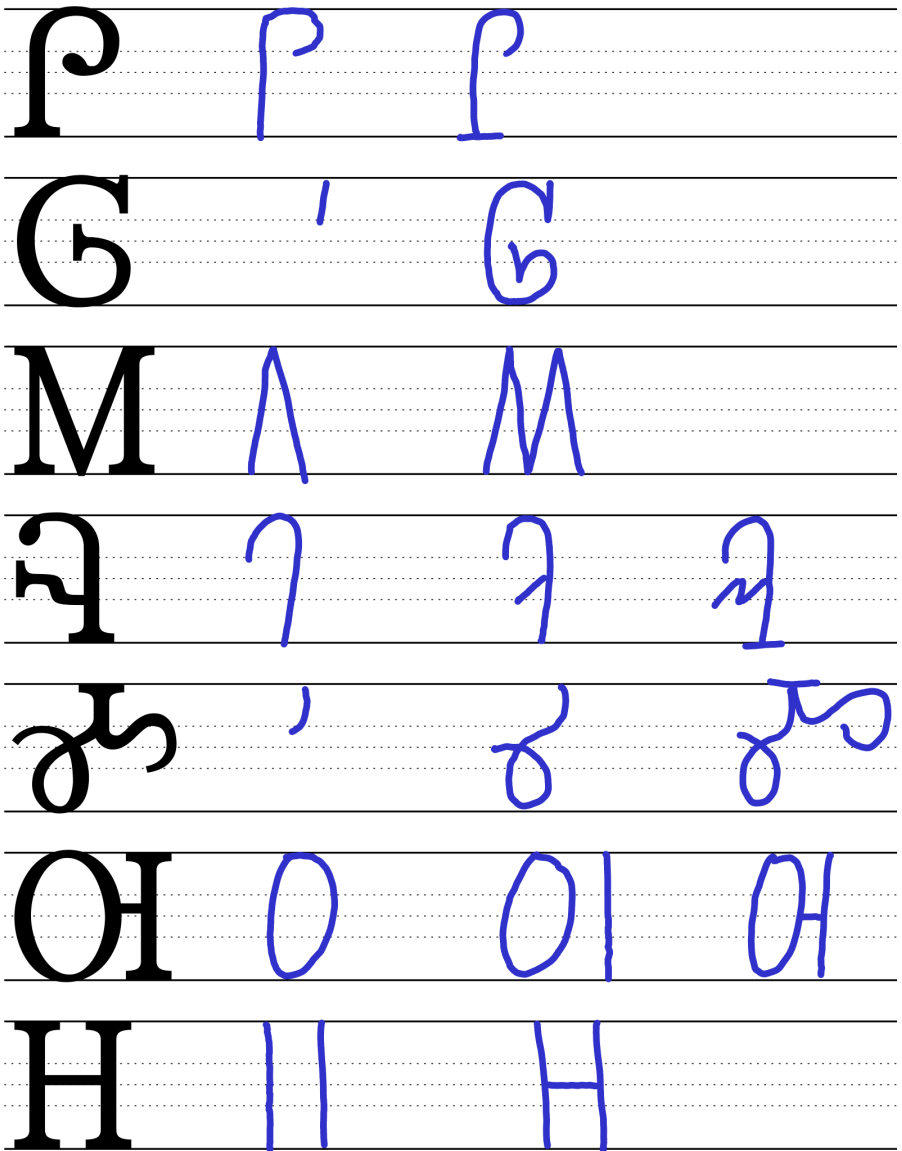


Figure 5.1: “P”, “G”, “M”, “Q”, “S”, “OI”, and “H”

Pronunciation	Syllabary	English Translation
Sa-quu	ᵂᵂ	One
Ta?li	ᵂᵂ	Two
Jo?i	KT	Three
I-lv-s-gi	Tᵂᵂᵂ	Few
I-ga-da	Tᵂᵂ	Some
Ji-qui-s-di (ji-gwi-s-di)	ᵂᵂᵂᵂ	Many
Ni-ga-da	hᵂᵂ	All
U-s-di	ᵂᵂᵂ	Little/Small (in size)
U-ta-na	ᵂᵂᵂ	Large/Big (in size)
Ululojv?i	ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ	Crazy
Uwoduhi	ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ	Pretty (in appearance)
Nv-ya	ᵂᵂ	A rock
Gu-gu	JJ	A bottle
Sa-dv-di	ᵂᵂᵂ	A trap
Di-sa-dv-di	ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ	Traps
-aduli-		Word root for “wanting it”
A-gwa-du:-li-ha (A?-wa-du:li-a)	DISᵂᵂᵂ	I want it.
U-du?-li-ha	ᵂᵂᵂᵂᵂ	He wants it.
Ja-du?-la	GSW	Let you want it.

5.3 Counting

Pronunciation	Syllabary	English Translation
i-ya-ni	Tᵂᵂh	Quantity/Count (Alive)
i-ga	Tᵂᵂ	Quantity/Count (Not Alive)

When indicating quantities, in many communities it is general practice to add either “i-ya-ni” after the number for living things or “i-ga” after the number for non-living things when dealing with any quantity greater than one.

Examples:

- Saquu doya. One beaver.
- Tali iyani awi. Two deer. (Two alive-count-of deer.)
- Joi iga disadvdi. Three traps. (Three not-alive-count-of traps.)

5.4 Plurals

Plurals in Cherokee do not work like they do in English. When dealing with anything plural, you have to make sure that all the words in

a sentence agree with both the “aliveness” and “quantity” you are talking about. This requirement includes words used to indicate color, size, shape, texture, and so on.

5.5 One Person vs Many People

When dealing with words that reference people, the plural is usually formed with the insertion of -ni-.

- Agotiha. Anigotiha. (He sees it. They see it.)
- Ajuja. Anijuja. (Boy. Boys.)

Many times, the -i- on -ni- is dropped to aid pronunciation.

- Unta. Unanta. (He knows it. They know it.)
- Usdi. Junsdi. (A little one. Little living ones, babies.)

5.6 One Thing vs Many Things

Many Cherokee words for animals, plants, places and things do not change form when used in a plural sense. They work like the English words “Deer” or “Buffalo”.

Examples:

- Saquu awi. Tali iyani awi. Joi iyani awi. (One deer. Two deer. Three deer.)
- Saquu gugu. Tali iga gugu. Joi iga gugu. (One bottle. Two bottles. Three bottles.)

Other words do change form to make a plural.

Example:

- Saquu sadvdi. Tali iga disadvdi. Joi iga disadvdi. (One trap. Two traps. Three traps.)

If a word has a known plural form, it will normally be supplied as part of your vocabulary.

5.7 Plural Describing Words

Words which are used to describe something, such as “gigage”, “usdi”, and “utana”, are changed to match the plurality and sometimes the “aliveness” of the thing being described. The rules for the prefixes are similar to the “Set A” vs “Set B” rules for verbs. The main difference is the addition of “di-” to represent plural inanimate objects.

Read through the following expanded word list. Take note of the similarity with the way the words are combined with the pronoun prefixes and the way the same prefixes are combined with words such as “uduliha” and “agotiha”. You should concentrate on recognizing these differing forms when heard or read, not memorizing them all. The translation exercises will teach which forms you should use when as your lessons progress.

- Jigigage.
 - Ji + gigage: I - red.
- Higigage.
 - Hi + gigage: You - red.
- Agigage.
 - A + gigage: He (alive) - red.
- Gigage
 - Gigage: It (not alive) - red.
- Inigigage.
 - Ini + gigage: You and I - red.
- Idigigage.
 - Idi + gigage: You all and I - red.
- Osdigigage.
 - Osdi + gigage: He and I - red.
- Ojigigage.
 - Oji + gigage: They and I - red.

- Sdigigage.
 - Sdi + gigage: You two - red.
- Ijigigage.
 - Iji + gigage: You all - red.
- Anigigage.
 - Ani + gigage: They (alive) - red.
- Digigage.
 - Di + gigage: They (not alive) - red.
- Gosda.
 - Gi + osda: I - good.
- Hosda.
 - Hi + osda: You - good.
- Osda.
 - Osda: He (both alive and not alive) - good.
- Inosda.
 - Ini + osda: You and I - good.
- Idosda.
 - Idi + osda: You all and I - good.
- Osdosda.
 - Osdi + osda: He and I - good.
- Ojosda.
 - Oji + osda: They and I - good.
- Sdosda.
 - Sdi + osda: You two - good.
- Ijosda.

- Iji + osda: You all - good.
- Anosda.
 - Ani + osda: They all (alive) - good.
- Josda.
 - Di + osda: They all (not alive) - good. (Di + a vowel not "i" becomes J-)
- Agilulojvi.
 - Agi + lulojvi: I - crazy.
- Jalulojvi.
 - Ja + lulojvi: You - crazy.
- Ululojvi.
 - U + lulojvi: He - crazy. (Both alive and not alive).
- Ginilulojvi.
 - Gini + lulojvi: You and I - crazy.
- Igilulojvi.
 - Igi + lulojvi: You all and I - crazy.
- Oginilulojvi.
 - Ogini + lulojvi: He and I - crazy.
- Ogilulojvi.
 - Ogi + lulojvi: They and I - crazy.
- Sdilulojvi.
 - Sdi + lulojvi: You two - crazy.
- Ijilulojvi.
 - Iji + lulojvi: You all - crazy.
- Unilulojvi.
 - Uni + lulojvi: They - crazy.

- Agwoduhi.
 - Aqui + oduhi: I - pretty.
- Joduhi.
 - Ja + oduhi: You - pretty.
- Uwoduhi.
 - U + oduhi: He - pretty. (Both alive and not alive). (U + o becomes Uwo-).
- Diginoduhi.
 - Di + gini + oduhi: You and I - pretty appearances. Di - multiple appearances. Gini - You and I. Oduhi - pretty.
- Digoduhi.
 - Di + igi + oduhi: You all and I - pretty appearances. Di - multiple appearances. Igi - You all and I. Oduhi - pretty.
- Joginoduhi.
 - Di + ogini + oduhi: He and I - pretty appearances. (Di - multiple appearances. Ogini - he and I. Oduhi - pretty. Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-).
- Jogoduhi.
 - Di + ogi + oduhi: They and I - pretty appearances. (Di - multiple appearances. Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-. Ogi - They and I. Oduhi - pretty.)
- Disdoduhi.
 - Di + sdi + oduhi: You two - pretty appearances.
- Dijoduhi.
 - Di + iji + oduhi: You all - pretty appearances.
- Junoduhi.
 - Di + uni + oduhi: They (alive) - pretty appearances. (Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-).
- Juwoduhi.

- Di + u + oduhi: They (not alive) - pretty appearances. (Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J- and U + o becomes Uwo-).
- Aquatana.
 - Aqui + atana: I - big.
- Jatana.
 - Ja + atana: You - big.
- Utana.
 - U + atana: He/It - big.
- Diginatana.
 - Di + gini + atana: You and I - big.
- Digatana.
 - Di + igi + atana: You all and I - big.
- Joginatana.
 - Di + ogini + atana: He and I - big. (Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-).
- Jogatana.
 - Di + ogi + atana: They and I - big. (Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-).
- Disdatana.
 - Di + sdi + atana: You two - big.
- Dijatana.
 - Di + iji + atana: You all - big.
- Junatana.
 - Di + uni + atana: They (alive) - big. (Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-).
- Jutana.
 - Di + u + atana: They (not alive) - big. (Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-).

Exercise 5.3. Recognition.

Start a new deck of vocabulary flash cards with the forms for “gi-gage” and “utana” from the word list in Section 5.7 on page 45. Put the combined word on one side and the English with the Cherokee word parts on the other side. Show the completed word form to your partner. Your partner should practice breaking down the combined words. Alternate with your partner each time the deck is cycled through. Shuffle the deck between alternations. *The goal of this exercise is to become familiar with the different word forms and learning to recognize word parts, not to memorize all the words.*

The most common word expansions you will encounter in written materials will be for the “another” and “they” forms. Compare the “another” and “they” forms with each other in the following list. Take special note of the insertion of “-ni- or “-n-” into many of the plural forms when dealing with living things.

- Agigage.
 - A + gigage.
 - Another, alive, red.
- Gigage.
 - Gigage.
 - Another, not alive, red.
- Anigage.
 - Ani + gigage.
 - They, alive, red.
- Digigage.
 - Di + gigage.
 - They, not alive, red.
- Osda.
 - Osda.
 - Another, either alive or not alive, good.
- Anosda.
 - Ani + osda.

- They, alive, good.
- Josda.
 - Di + osda.
 - Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-.
 - They, not alive, good.
- Ululojvi.
 - U + lulojvi.
 - Another, alive or not alive, crazy.
- Unilulojvi.
 - Uni + lulojvi.
 - They, alive or not alive, crazy.
- Uwoduhi.
 - U + oduhi.
 - U + o becomes Uwo-.
 - Another, alive or not alive, pretty appearance.
- Junoduhi.
 - Di + u + ni + oduhi.
 - Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-.
 - They, alive, pretty appearances.
- Juwoduhi.
 - Di + u + oduhi.
 - U + o becomes uwo-.
 - Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-
 - They, not alive, pretty appearances.
- Utana.
 - U + atana.
 - Another, alive or not alive, large appearances.
- Junatana.
 - Di + u + ni + atana.

- Di + a vowel not “i” becomes J-.
- They, alive, large appearances.
- Jutana.
 - Di + u + atana
 - Di + a vowel not “i” becomes “j-”.
 - They, not alive, large appearances.

Exercise 5.4. Recognition.

Start a new deck of vocabulary flash cards with the vocabulary from the word list in Section 5.7 on page 50. Put the combined word on one side and the English with the Cherokee word parts on the other side. Show the completed word form to your partner. Your partner should practice breaking down the combined words. Alternate with your partner each time the deck is cycled through. Shuffle the deck between alternations. *The goal of this exercise is to become familiar with the different word forms and learning to recognize word parts, not to memorize all the words.*

5.8 Plurals Practice

Exercise 5.5. Referring to the word list starting in Section 5.7 on page 50, translate the following into English. (Answers on page 136).

1. Joi iga digigage disadvdi.

2. Ilvsgi anosda ogana.

3. Igada junsdi awi.

4. Jiquisdi uniyoi dili.

5. Igada digigage gugu.

6. Tali iyani anosda dili.

7. Tali iga jutana nvya.

8. Jiquisdi anosda awi.

9. Joi iga josda disadvdi.

10. Igada unilulojvi etli.

11. Jiquisdi junatana awi.

12. Ilvsgi junatana doya.

13. Ilvsgi juwoduhi disadvdi.

14. Tali iyani junsdi doya.

15. Ilvsgi anosda dili.

16. Joi iyani unilulojvi dili.

Exercise 5.6. Referring to the word list starting in Section 5.7 on page 50, translate the following into Cherokee. (Answers on page 137).

1. Three little deer.

2. Two crazy skunks.

3. Some good deer.

4. Many red beaver.

5. Many red rocks.

6. Two good traps.

7. A few pretty skunks.

8. Three little beaver.

9. Many crazy deer.

10. A few bad skunks.

11. A few pretty beaver.

12. A few good bottles.

13. A few red bottles.

14. Many red skunks.

15. Three large beaver.

16. Some bad rocks.

5.9 It vs Them

All of the verbs you have learned so far have all referred to only a single “it”. Similar to the way sadvdi becomes disadvdi, to change the “it” into “them”, you add “de-” before the bound pronoun based on the following rules:

- Put the “de-” before the bound pronoun unless the word starts with a vowel.
 - If the word starts with “i-”, drop the “i-”.
 - Otherwise drop the “-e-”.

Examples:

- Jigotiha. Dejigotiha. (I see it. I see them.)
 - Inigotiha. Denigotiha. (You and I see it. You and I see them.)
 - Agotiha. Dagotiha. (He sees it. He sees them.)
- When giving a command, use “di-” instead of “de-” before the bound pronoun unless the word starts with a vowel.
 - If the word starts with “a-”, drop the “a-” then put “di-”.
 - Otherwise “di-” followed by a vowel becomes “j-”.

Examples:

- Doya higowata. Doya dihigowata. (Look at the beaver. Look at the beaver.)
- Etli ijigowata. Etli jijigowata. (Let all of you look at the mink. Let all of you look at the mink.)

5.9.1 Plural Living Objects

In some communities a different prefix other than “de-/di-” is used when talking about living objects vs non-living objects when making verbs plural. These additional endings will not be addressed at this time. They will be included for completeness in later lesson material.

5.9.2 Sound Twins

When performing the “de-” addition for verbs that use “ji-” for “I” and “iji-” for “You all”, the plural forms appear identical when written down. See Figure 5.2. However, there is a pronunciation difference that needs to be taken into account. For the forms referring to “I”, the “ji-” is usually shortened and slightly raised in tone. For the forms referring to “You all”, the “-ji-” is of normal length and uses a lower tone. Compare the different musical scores for dejigotiha vs dejigotiha and dejiwoniha vs dejiwoniha in Figure 5.3. To represent

Single “It” Form	Plural “Them” Form
Jigotiha. ገገገገገገ. I see it.	Dejigotiha. ገገገገገገገገ. I see them.
Ijigotiha. ገገገገገገገገ. You all see it.	Deji’gotiha. ገገገገገገገገ. You all see them.
Jiwoniha. ገገገገገገገገ. I speak it.	Dejiwoniha. ገገገገገገገገ. I speak them.
Ijiwoniha. ገገገገገገገገገ. You all speak it.	Deji’woniha. ገገገገገገገገገ. You all speak them.

Figure 5.2: Examples of Twin Spellings.

Figure 5.3: Musical score for the deji- twin forms.

this pronunciation difference in the text, a stress mark “ˈ” will be added to for the “You all - them” forms that have a known twin.¹

Exercise 5.7. Recognition.

Translate into English (Answers on page 138):

1. Doginaduliha.

2. Dagotiha.

¹Thanks goes to Dosvdali/Formiko for his suggestion of using stress for the [1] tone form as recorded in the Durbin Feeling dictionary. I have expanded his suggestion for use to include it for twin word differentiation.

3. Dunaduliha.

4. Dagwaduliha.

5. Dojigotiha.

6. Denigotiha.

7. Dehigotiha.

8. Deji'duliha.

9. Danigotiha.

10. Dosdigotiha.

11. Desdaduliha.

12. Degaduliha.

13. Duduliha.

14. Dejigotiha.

15. Deginaduliha.

16. Dedigotiha.

17. Desdigotiha.

18. Dogaduliha.

Exercise 5.8. Translate into Cherokee (Answers on page 138):

1. He wants them.

2. You want them.

3. He sees them.

4. I see them.

5. He and I want them.

6. You see them.

7. You all and I see them.

8. They and I want them.

9. You two want them.

10. You two see them.

11. I want them.

12. They and I see them.

13. They see them.

14. You all and I want them.

15. He and I see them.

16. You all want them.

17. You and I want them.

18. You and I see them.

19. They want them.

5.10 Agreement

All the words in a sentence referring to a thing or action must agree in plurality and “aliveness” with that thing or action. This will become more second nature to you by doing the translation exercises.

Examples:

- Gigage nvya. Digigage nvya. (A red rock. Red rocks.)
- Agigage doya. Anigigage doya. (A red beaver. Red beaver.)
- Doya etli agotiha. Doya igada etli dagotiha. (A beaver sees a mink. A beaver sees some mink.)
- Usdi nvya jigotiha. Igada jusdi nvya dejigotiha. (I see a little rock. I see some little rocks.)
- Agigage awi jigotiha. Igada anigigage awi dejigotiha. (I see a red deer. I see some red deer.)

Exercise 5.9. Translate the following into English (Answers on page 139):

1. Dili unaduliha.

2. Awi nvyu uduliha.

3. Awi anigotiha.

4. Doya agotiha.

5. Tali iga disadvdi dagotiha doya.

6. Ilvsgi nvyu duduliha.

7. Jiquisdi disadvdi dagotiha doya.

8. Igada nvyu duduliha.

9. Tali iyani dili dunaduliha joi iyani awi.

10. Ilvsgi nvyu dunaduliha igada awi.

11. Joi iyani doya danigotiha ilvsgi awi.

12. Ilvsge gugu dunaduliha ilvsge doya.

13. Igada junoduhi awi daquaduliha.

14. Joi iyani junsdi dili dunaduliha.

15. Tali iga jusdi gugu dunaduliha igada doya.

16. Igada unilulojvi gugu dejigotiha.

17. Ilvsge juwoduhi gugu dunaduliha igada junatana awi.

18. Jiquisdi digigage gugu dunaduliha igada junatana dili.

19. Ilvsge junsdi dili dunaduliha igada junatana doya.

20. Jiquisdi junatana doya danigotiha jiquisdi junsdi awi.

Exercise 5.10. Translate the following into Cherokee (Answers on page 140):

1. A deer sees a rock.

2. He wants a bottle.

3. They see a deer.

4. He sees a bottle.

5. The deer wants a rock.

6. A beaver sees three rocks.

7. She wants a few beavers.

8. A skunk wants two beavers.

9. I want three bottles.

10. He sees three bottles.

11. Two beaver see three skunks.

12. A few beavers see some skunks.

13. A few beavers want two rocks.

14. They want three rocks.

15. Some beavers see three bottles.

16. Some deer see many crazy traps.

17. Some skunks see three red rocks.

18. Two deer see two little beavers.

19. Three large beavers want a few pretty rocks.

20. Some crazy deer want many large skunks.

5.11 Exercise

Exercise 5.11. Do the dictation practice review audio. Be sure to say the name of the letter each time you *start* writing it.

