

Miami Pronunciation Guide

Consonants

There are 12 consonants in the Miami spelling system

	<u>as in Miami</u>	<u>as in English</u>
p	péna (potato)	paper
t	tawaáni (tree)	tie
k	akoóka (frog)	keep
c	acíwi (hill)	church
s	sakímia (mosquito)	see
š	šoo'li (money)	show
h	neéhi (and)	ahead
m	miímia (pigeon)	mom
n	nihkáni (my leg)	no
l	piloóhsa (child)	leave
w	waapíki (it is white)	wish
y	yaalanwi (five)	yarn

Vowels

There are four vowels in Miami but they appear in both a short and long form

	<u>as in Miami</u>	<u>as in English</u>
a	aníkwa (squirrel)	about
aa	waáwi (egg)	fall
e	alémwa (dog)	bet
ee	neepíka (he is dead)	made
i	nípi (water)	big
ii	niišwi (two)	see
o	ayaaló (you go)	no
oo	šooli (money)	moose

Preaspirated Consonants

These are unique sounds not found in English. Typically a short breath before the following consonant

hp	iihpíiki (it is tall)
ht	eehteéki (it is located/at)
hk	mahkwá (bear)
hs	noóhsa (my father)
hš	nimehšooma (my grandfather)
hc	moóhci (no/not)

Other Rules

These are some unique standard rules to apply to the Miami spelling system

(V=any vowel)

	<u>as in Miami</u>	<u>in English</u>
nk	nínkya (my mother)	linger
nt	kintíwa (golden eagle)	tinder
ns	kinsoóyi (your tail)	frenzy
nc	iilínci (he is told)	conjure
nš	pinšíwa (bobcat)	pleasure
mp	eempawita (he flies)	lumber
mVs	masaána (thread)	-maz-
nVs	lénaswa (buffalo)	-naz-
mVš	mahkomiši (sumac tree)	-mizh-
nVš	taaníši (how)	-nizh-