

I'm not a robot



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The license may not grant you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Nahuatl is a Uto-Aztecan language that is currently spoken by, between, 1.5-2 million people around the world. Most of these speakers are located in the Central Mexico region, with some speakers residing in El Salvador: language video by KOIIHHow do you pronounce Nahuatl? Nahuatl can be pronounced Nawa, Nawat, or N'awal depending on the region of the speaker. However a common trend in Nahuatl is to place emphasis on the second to last syllable of any given word. In this case, the -tl at the end is silent. Nahuatl alphabet and pronunciation Now its time to learn Nahuatl alphabet and sound structure. Nahuatl has adopted the latin alphabet, making the reading portion much easier than it used to be when it was written in a semi-lets system. There are 5 basic vowels in Nahuatl which include, a, e, i, o, and u.Nahuatl Example pronunciation in f'atheres in h'edias in p'Eos in gh'ostus in t'UneSometimes you will see aa, ee or any of these vowels used twice, this simply means to the sound longer. You may also see a: or u: this is the same as using the letter twice. Lets now take a look at the Nahuatl consonantsNahuatl Example pronunciationWhen in front of a, o, or u, it is like the c in cat and when in front of e, or i the c is soft like in the word ceasachas in championas in hibus in wait, it takes a w like soundas in lampmas in momnas in nopus in peopleas in key, it takes a k sound similar to the c.tts in tall!This is quite tricky, but think of it as the tl in atlantic but sharper; tzes in petxhas a sh sound like sheepas in yesas in soft similar to a soft c'who speaks the Nahuatl Language?Nahuatl is still spoken in rural communities in areas around Central Mexico such as Veracruz, Hidalgo, Puebla, Tlaxcala, and Guerrero. There is also a small community of speakers in El Salvador. People that speak the Nahuatl language are generally descendants of the Aztec people. While many have moved across Latin America, and to the United States, their origins can be traced to Central Mexico where the Aztec Empire once stood. History of the Nahuatl LanguageIn order to effectively learn a language I think its important to go over some of its history. So in this case, to learn Nahuatl lets go over some basic history. It is believed that Nahuatl, or Classical Nahuatl, originated in the deserts in the north of what is now Mexico, and the southwest of the United States. The exact date is unclear, but is was likely before 500 AD. Sometime around 500 AD the Nahuatl people migrated to the valley of Mexico. During this time they adopted agriculture, and urban development as a way of life. After building larger communities, sometime around 700 AD, the Nahuatl people rose to power in Central Mexico. Classical Nahuatl to Nahuatl! The second migration in 1200 AD consisted of the Mexica people who settled on the island of Lake Texcoco. This would eventually lead to the construction of Tenochtitlan. After making an alliance with the Tlaxcala, and Tlacopan, the three would form the Aztec Empire. During this time Classical Nahuatl became the dominant language across Central Mexico. Once the Spanish started to colonize the New World in the 16th century, the language started to integrate with Spanish and form modern day Nahuatl. One major difference being that Nahuatl is now written in the latin alphabet. Nahuatl vs MayanMany people assume that because the Aztec Empire was next to the Mayan people, that their language and culture are similar. However, this is not the case. The Mayan glyphs, as they are commonly referred as, can be deciphered and that it was in fact phonetic. Meanwhile, the Nahuatl, or Classical Nahuatl, writing system is more hieroglyphics based and not considered a complete writing system. How can I Learn the Nahuatl Language?So how can you learn Nahuatl? Well, that all depends on what your goals are. Are you looking to speak the language, read poetry, or simply know a few phrases?Unlike more common languages like Spanish, French, or Japanese, Nahuatl language learning resources are very limited. Similar to Akateko, most resources are in Spanish. There are some resources you can use such as the following links:Basic Nahuatl Phrases to KnowPaliuHelloNotoocaa my name isQuenin tici /timohuic? How are you?Cualli GoodCualli cualli Very goodQuenia YesAmo No/not (negative)Ma cualli tonalli have a good day Go to Pronunciation Guides Student Resources page Web site main page File last modified: Slightly Geeky Guide to Without Knowing Any Classical Nahuatl (Generally More Than You Actually Need To Know) Overview Nahuatl was the administrative language of the Aztec empire and was easily the most influential and widespread of the languages encountered by the Spanish when they began to colonize Central America. (The other major Classical of this area was a group of dialects collectively called Maya.) An English speaker encounters Nahuatl in modern and historical place names (like Chapultepec), as well as in names of people (like Motecuzoma), in works dealing with Aztec life (like chili and atlatl), and sometimes in Aztec words used in English (like tomatl). Nahuatl is still spoken in parts of Mexico, mostly in the south central region around Mexico city, and many spoken dialects have been distinguished. This page is focused on the "Classical" language represented in texts preserved from the period just after the Spanish brought a writing system to Nahuatl speakers. To learn more about Classical Nahuatl (including a small introductory interactive textbook), click here. Spelling & Pronunciation Because the spelling of Nahuatl was originally based on spelling conventions in 17th-century Spanish, Nahuatl texts are generally "pronounced like Spanish," with the following exceptions and points to note: Words are stressed on the second-to-last vowel (excluding U) regardless of final consonants. (It's Teotihuacn, not Teotihuacn, and Chapultepec, not Chapltepec.) X is pronounced like English SH, LL is pronounced like a long L (not as in Spanish). TL counts as a single consonant, never as a full syllable. U does not occur as an independent vowel. The only Nahuatl vowels are A, E, I, and O, although each of them can be long or short. CU and UC are both pronounced KW. (UC is sometimes spelled CUCH.) HU and UH are both pronounced W. H without an adjacent U represents a "silent" glottal stop (as in "go over" or "uh oh"); in modern Nahuatl it sometimes has a sound similar to an English H and may have had that value in some dialects of Classical Nahuatl as well. (For an English speaker, pronouncing the H like an English H is not really wrong and has the advantage that it helps one remember that it is there.) C before E or I is pronounced like English S. (The letter S is not used in Classical Nahuatl.) Z is pronounced like English S. (The letter S is not used in Classical Nahuatl.) However over the centuries there has been considerable instability in the spelling of Nahuatl. Some common variations: The letters U and O may be used interchangeably to represent the sound of O. The letter U alone may be used instead of UH or HU to represent the sound of W. (At the time of the Conquest, the written letters V and U were usually reversed in Spanish from their modern values, so U indeed had the value of a modern English W.) The letter H representing the glottal stop may or may not be written. (The Spanish, like English speakers, tended not to hear it, so it was often omitted.) Vowel length may or may not be marked. Usually not. The consonant Y may be written with the letter Y. The letter C (with a cedilla under it) may be used in place of Z to represent the sound of S. In this century American linguists working with modern Nahuatl have sometimes preferred spellings that look less Spanish (and "coincidentally" more English). Thus: W may be used in place of HU or UH for the sound of W. K may be used in place of QU/C for the sound of K. S may be used in place of Z/C for the sound of S. In some cases weird letters, available on no keyboard and included in very few type fonts, are used for TL, CH, CU/UC, and TZ to stress that these are single consonants, not compounds. (Willingness to use weird letters is an occupational hazard of being a linguist. Ordinary mortals find them hard to understand and harder yet to type.) Nahuatl distinguishes between long and short vowels (the same vowels, held for a longer or shorter time). Vowel-length difference sometimes was all that distinguished different words, and it matters to us because it affects our analysis of compounds. You will rarely if ever see it marked, but it may explain why English authors sometimes disagree about Aztec etymologies. Now you know. Return to top. Print this page. Pronunciation Try to pronounce Video Meanings Synonyms Quiz Collections Sentence Translation News Rate the pronunciation difficulty of nahuatl Pronunciation of nahuatl with audio 91 ratings rating 26 ratings rating 41 ratings rating 37 ratings rating Show more fewer Voices Record the pronunciation of this word in your own voice and play it to listen to how you have pronounced it. Can you pronounce this word better or pronounce in different accent or variation? Show more fewer Phonetic spelling Add phonetic spelling Cancel Thanks for contributing to the Uto-Aztecan language spoken by the Nahuatl people a member of any of various Indian peoples of central Mexico. Thanks for contributing American Indian Red Indian Uto-Aztecan language Thanks for contributing to Wiktionary. {1|quiz|questions|count|} Questions Lets play Show more fewer Quiz {{collection|count}} View collection "Private-{1|collection|uname|}" Show more fewer Collections An Introduction to Classical Nahuatl Examples of this are given in 20; it is worthy of notice that the vigesimal (or, rather, quinary-quaternary) system was used by the Mayans of Yucatan, and also in a more perfect form by the Nahuatl (Aztecs) of Mexico. Acanal tothaplaholitlauantlahpa Thanks for contributing Translate this word/phrase Cancel Thanks for contributing An Introduction to Classical Nahuatl Bowles, David 2014. Translating An Otomi Song of Spring from the Nahuatl CodexSong of Mexico. Translation Review, Vol. 88, Issue 1, p. 37. Johnson, Philip M. Cambridge University Press Autonymy for nahuatl Thanks for contributing YAH-noo-hahr JAN-oo-ahr Pronunciation poll North American language familyProto-Uto-AztecanSubdivisionsCahitanOrchidCupanHophNahuanNumicOpataMinicanPameanTzotzilTzotzilTzotzilLanguage codesISO 639-5azcGlotologotu2244Pre-contact distribution of Uto-Aztecan languagesCurrent extent of Uto-Aztecan languages in MexicoThe Uto-Aztecana[al] languages[b] family is of the Amerind language family, consisting of over forty languages. Uto-Aztecana[al] languages are found almost entirely in the Western United States and Mexico. The name of the language family is derived from the Uto-Aztecana[al] language family, which is spoken in favoritism as Sustut, Idaho, while the northernmost is the Nahuatl language of El Salvador and Nicaragua. [3] Uto-Aztecana[al] languages are the total number of languages in the family as 61, and the total number of speakers as 1,900,412 [6] One of the main branches is the northern branch including all the languages of the US and a southern branch including all the languages of Mexico, although it is still being discussed whether this is best understood as a genetic classification or as a geographical one. Below this level of classification the main branches are well accepted: Numic (including languages such as Comanche and Shoshoni) and the California languages (formerly known as the Takic group, including Cahuilla and Luiseno) account for most of the Northern languages. Hopi and Thabatalab and language outside these groups. The Southern languages are divided into the Tepiman languages (including Otohomi and Toponoh), the Tarahumara languages (including Raramuri and Cuaras), the Gabitian languages (including Yaqui and Mayo), the Corachan languages (including Cora and Huichol), and the Nahuatl languages. The homeland of the Uto-Aztecana[al] languages is generally considered to have been in the Southwestern United States or possibly Northwestern Mexico. An alternative theory has proposed the possibility that the language family originated in southern Mexico, with the Mesoamerican language area, but this has not been generally considered convincing. Uto-Aztecana[al] speaking communities in and around Central AmericaUto-Aztecana[al] languages are spoken in the North American mountain ranges and adjacent lowlands of the western United States in the states of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, California, Nevada, and Arizona. In Mexico, they are spoken in the states of Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, Navarit, Durango, Zacatecas, Jalisco, Michoacn, Guerrero, San Luis Potos, Hidalgo, Puebla, Veracruz, Morelos, State of Mexico, and in Mexico City. Central Nahuatl (the language of the Aztecs) and its modern relatives, the Nahuatl languages, are part of the Uto-Aztecana[al] family. The Nawa language, spread to Central America in a wave of migration in the Pre-Columbian era and had many speakers there. It was extinct in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua and is nearly extinct in western El Salvador, but it has undergone a recent language revitalization. Uto-Aztecana[al] has been accepted by linguists as a language family since the early 1900s, and six subgroups are generally accepted as valid: Numic, Takic, Pimic, Taracahitan, and Corachol, and Aztecan. That leaves two ungrouped languages: Thabatalab and Hopi (sometimes termed "islands within the family"). Some recent studies have begun to question the unity of the Taracahitan and Takic computer-assisted statistical studies have begun to question some of the long-held assumptions and consensuses. Presently scholars disagree as to where to draw language boundaries within the Uto-Aztecana[al] language family. The similarities among the Uto-Aztecana[al] languages were noted as early as 1859 by J. C. E. Buschmann, but he failed to recognize the genetic affiliation between the Aztec branch and the rest. He ascribed the similarities between the two groups to drift. Daniel Garrison Brinton added the Aztecana[al] languages to the family in 1891 and coined the term Uto-Aztecana[al]. The Uto-Aztecana[al] was proposed as a genetic grouping between the two groups to drift. Powell's "Shoshonean" (encompassing Takic, Numic, Hopi, and Thabatalab) and "Sonoran" (encompassing Pimic, Taracahitan, and Corachol). In the early 1900s Alfred L. Kroehler found in the picture of the Shoshonean group,[7] while Edward Sapir proposed the unity of Sonoran, "Shoshonean" [8][9][10] Sapir's applications of the comparative method to unwritten Native American languages are regarded as groundbreaking.[citation needed] Voegelin, Voegelin & Kroehler (1962) argued for a three-way division of Shoshonean, Sonoran and Aztecana[al], following Powell. [11] As of about 2011, there is still debate about whether to accept the proposed basic split between "Northern Uto-Aztecana[al]" and "Southern Uto-Aztecana[al]" [2] Northern Uto-Aztecana[al] corresponds to Powell's "Shoshonean", and the latter is all the rest; Powell's "Sonoran" plus Thabatalab was proposed as a genetic grouping by Jeffrey Heath in 1978 based on morphological evidence, and Alexxis Manaster Ramer in 1992 added phonological evidence in the form of a sound law. Terrence Kaufman in Kaufman (1981) accepted the basic division into Northern and Southern branches as valid. Other scholars have rejected the genealogical unity of either both nodes or the Northern node alone.[12][13][14][15] Wick R. Miller's argument was statistical, arguing that Northern Uto-Aztecana[al] languages displayed too few cognates to be considered a unit. On the other hands he found the number of cognates among Southern Uto-Aztecana[al] languages to suggest a genetic relation.[14] This position was supported by subsequent lexicostatistic analysis by Cortina-Borja & Valias-Coalla (1989) and Cortina-Borja, Stuart-Smith & Valias-Coalla (2002). Reviewing the debate, Haugen (2008) considers the evidence in favor of the unity of Northern Uto-Aztecana[al] as a valid grouping. Hill (2011) also rejected the validity of the Takic grouping decomposing it into a Californian area grouping together with Thabatalab. Some classifications have posited a genetic relationship between Corachol and Nahuatl (e.g. Merrill (2013)). Kaufman recognizes similarities between Corachol and Aztecan, but explains them by diffusion instead of genetic evolution.[16] Most scholars view the breakup of Proto-Uto-Aztecana[al] as a case of the gradual disintegration of a dialect continuum.[17] Below is a representation of the internal classification of the language family based on Shaul (2011). The classification reflects the decision to split up the previous Taracahitan and Takic groups, that are no longer considered to be valid genetic units. Whether the division between Northern and Southern languages is best understood as geographical or phylogenetic is under discussion. The table contains demographic information about number of speakers and their locations based on data from The Ethnologue. The table also contains links to a selected bibliography of grammars, dictionaries, or language atlases of individual languages. 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Retrieved from "4The following pages link to 4th century External tools(link counttransclusion countsorted list) See help page for transcluding these entriesShowing 50 items.View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)List of decades, centuries, and millennia (links | edit)Religion in pre-Islamic Arabia(links | edit)Rosetta Stone (links | edit)20th century (links | edit)15th century (links | edit)16th century (links | edit)17th century (links | edit)18th century (links | edit)14th century (links | edit)1st century (links | edit)13th century (links | edit)397 (links | edit)12th century (links | edit)7th century (links | edit)10th century (links | edit)9th century (links | edit)8th century (links | edit)6th century (links | edit)5th century (links | edit)3rd century (links | edit)2nd century (links | edit)405 (links | edit)432 (links | edit)200s (decade) (links | edit)300s (decade) (links | edit)1st century BC (links | edit)2nd century BC (links | edit)3rd century BC (links | edit)5th century BC (links | edit)6th century BC (links | edit)400s (decade) (links | edit)310s (links | edit)320s (links | edit)321 (links | edit)21st century BC (links | edit)11th century BC (links | edit)286 (links | edit)476 (links | edit)385 (links | edit)7th century BC (links | edit)410 (links | edit)325 (links | edit)380s (links | edit)381 (links | edit)479s (links | edit)430s (links | edit)430 (links | edit)510s (links | edit)View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)Retrieved from "WhatLinksHere/4th_century" As promised earlier, I'm doing a quick writeup of basic Nahuatl pronunciation and spelling. Or rather, I found a good one online that's consistent with what the best modern dictionaries are using. The guide below is shamelessly ripped from the Wikibooks entry that houses it, and is extended with a few notes of mine. My thanks to the authors of this guide Ptcamn, Icelandic Hurricane, and Jguk! Go HERE to view the original entry on Wikibooks. Or go HERE to have Wikibooks render a downloadable PDF of this guide (without my notes) for you. UPDATE: And it appears that the guys who set up the Wikibooks entry ripped it from David K. Jordans Nahuatl page, and extended it with their notes. The original is HERE, to give credit where its due. Vowels Nahuatl has four short vowels: a, e, i, and o. The vowels a, e and i sound similar to Spanish, while o can sound like either a Spanish o or au. Unlike in English, where cuter and cutter have different vowels, the vowels of Nahuatl don't change depending on what follows them. Each vowel also has a long form, marked by a line or macron over the vowel: , , , . They have the same sound as the short vowels, but are simply held longer. [Cehuallis note these macrons are often omitted in actual texts] Consonants Nahuatl ch, m, n, p, t, and y are pronounced like English. As in English, c represents an s-sound when followed by e or i, but a k-sound elsewhere. Cu is pronounced kw, like in Spanish, or like English qu. Its inverse, uc, is the same sound at the end of a syllable. Hu is pronounced like English hw. Like cu, it is reversed at the end of a syllable, so auh sounds like ow, and iuh sounds like eww. H alone, when not part of ch, hu or uh, may have represented a glottal stop, as in the Cockney pronunciation of bottle, or it may have been a sound like English h. Unlike English h, it is pronounced at the end of syllables: ah isn't simply a vowel, but a vowel followed by a consonant. Before a vowel, i is the same as English or Spanish l. Before a consonant or at the end of a word, however, it is neither dark like English l in full, nor clear like Spanish l. It is a voiceless sound, like Welsh ll. This isn't important to understanding, though, and it can be pronounced like an English l without introducing confusion. Double ll is simply held longer. It is not a palatal sound like in Spanish, or a single l like in English. Qu is used to represent the k-sound before e and i, like in Spanish. It isn't pronounced kw as in English. X is pronounced like English sh. Tl is pronounced like t with the tongue held in a position for l [Cehuallis note when this comes at the very end of a word, the l is very quiet, almost a whisper. Not pronounced tul as one might think!] Tz is pronounced like German z, or like English ts except that the t is pronounced even at the start of words not like tsar or tsunami, where the t is silent. [Cehuallis note like the ts in kits, in other words.] Z is pronounced like English s. Stress Stress regularly falls on the second last syllable of a word. Spelling The spelling used here is a modern standardized system, in order to represent all the sounds of Nahuatl consistently. The spelling used in the original manuscripts did not always represent Nahuatl pronunciation accurately. In particular, vowel length and h were usually omitted. [Cehuallis note in a rare few manuscripts, like Cacochi, you may see diacritics and other odd marks. Very rare, not something to worry about in general.] Spelling & Pronunciation of Classical Nahuatl Words Because the spelling of Nahuatl was originally based on spelling conventions in Spanish, Nahuatl texts are generally pronounced like Spanish, with the following exceptions and points to note: Words are stressed on the second-to-the-last vowel (excluding U) regardless of final consonants X is pronounced like English SH. LL is pronounced like a long L (not as in Spanish). TL counts as a single consonant, never as a full syllable. U does not occur as an independent vowel. The only Nahuatl vowels are A, E, I, and O, although each of them can be long or short. C and UC are both pronounced KW. HU and UH are both pronounced W. H without an adjacent U represents a silent glottal stop (as in go_over); in modern Nahuatl it sometimes has a sound similar to an English H and may have had that value in some dialects of Classical Nahuatl as well. (For an English speaker, pronouncing the H like an English H is not really wrong and has the advantage that it helps one remember that it is there.) C before E or I is pronounced like English S. (The letter S is not used in Classical Nahuatl.) Z is pronounced like English S. (The letter S is not used in Classical Nahuatl.) However over the centuries there has been considerable instability in the spelling of Nahuatl. Some common variations: The letters U and O may be used interchangeably to represent the sound of O. The letter U alone may be used instead of UH or HU to represent the sound of W. (At the time of the Conquest, the written letters V and U were usually reversed in Spanish from their modern values, so V indeed had the value of a modern English W.) The letter H representing the glottal stop may or may not be written. Vowel length may or may not be marked. The consonant Y may be written with the letter I. The vowel I may be written with the letter Y. The letter Y may be used in place of Z to represent the sound of S. In this century American linguists working with modern Nahuatl have sometimes preferred spellings that look less Spanish (and coincidentally more English). Thus: W may be used in place of HU or UH for the sound of W. K may be used in place of QU/C for the sound of S. [Cehuallis note is also in this category.] In some cases weird letters, available on no keyboard and included in very few type fonts, are used for TL, CH, CU/UC, and TZ to stress that these are single consonants, not compounds.*