

Guide to the Ibaig Language

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<https://whiletrue.neocities.org/ibaig>

Introduction

Ibaig, or ĩbaig, is an English code I originally created in February 2019. The idea for Ibaig stems from Zambuda, a little-known language game where English is “pronounced wrong in every possible way”, and “long vowels become short”. Unlike Viesa, Ibaig does not apply grammatical modifications and focuses only on modifying words. The language started out as somewhat of a joke, as evident from the name being Ibaig for “epic”.

One problem with Ibaig is that the transformation of vowels is based partially on sounds, which causes issues due to dialectal variation. Therefore, my alteration of words may differ from others’. But hopefully, these differences in word alteration will still be understandable.

Rules

In Ibaig, vowel letters have one of two categories, which are based on how the letter is pronounced: “primary” and “secondary”. If a vowel letter is pronounced as it’s corresponding vowel sound in the table below, it is a “primary” vowel. Any other pronunciation makes it a “secondary” vowel. These categories determine which vowel sound a certain vowel letter will become.

a	e	i	o	u
ei	i	ai	oʊ/ɔ	u

For example, the ‘a’ in the word “cake” is a primary vowel, while the ‘a’ in “cat” or “about” is a secondary vowel.

In a vowel digraph where two vowel letters represent a single monophthong, each vowel letter’s category is determined by the single sound the digraph makes. If the digraph represents a diphthong, each vowel letter represents the two parts of the

diphthong. Note that /ɪ/ or /ʊ/ at the end of a diphthong are regarded as /i/ and /u/ respectively.

For example, in the word “beam”, the ‘ea’ digraph is pronounced /i/. The ‘e’ is pronounced /i/, but the ‘a’ is not, therefore the ‘e’ is primary while the ‘a’ is secondary.

Another example is the word “house”, where the ‘ou’ digraph is pronounced /aʊ/. The letter ‘o’ is not pronounced /o/, so it’s secondary. However, ‘u’ is pronounced /u/, which is the same thing as /ʊ/ when it’s at the end of a diphthong, so it’s primary.

The vowel letters then become their corresponding vowel sound, as shown in the table below.

	a	e	i	o	u
Primary	a	ɛ	ɪ	ʊ	ʌ
Secondary	e	i	aɪ	o	u

The consonant letters in a word are pronounced the same way, but the voicing of the sounds /p b t d k g f v θ ð s z ʃ ʒ tʃ dʒ/ is inverted. Thus:

- p <-> b
- t <-> d
- k <-> g
- f <-> v
- θ <-> ð
- s <-> z
- ʃ <-> ʒ
- tʃ <-> dʒ

In addition, /ɪ/ becomes /l/ and /l/ becomes /r/.

Any two adjacent vowels must have /ʔ/ placed between them.

When ‘y’ is pronounced as a vowel or not before a vowel, it becomes /i/. Similarly, when ‘w’ is not before a vowel, it becomes /u/.

Stress is always on the second-to-last syllable.

The articles “the” and “a/an” become the clicks /l/ and /ʘ/ respectively.

Examples:

cake -> /'gagi/

cat -> /ged/

beam -> /'pɛʔem/

house -> /hoʔ'ʌzi/

the way -> /l 'waʔi/

a dawn -> /ʘ 'teʔun/

Orthography

The orthography for Ibaig is shown below. Note that Ibaig is written with all lowercase letters.

Letter(s)	IPA
a	/a/
ai	/ai/
ā	/ɔ/
b	/b/
ch	/tʃ/
d	/d/
dh	/ð/
e	/ɛ/

é	/e/
f	/f/
g	/g/
h	/h/
i	/ɪ/
ī	/i/
j	/dʒ/
k	/k/
l	/l/
m	/m/
n	/n/
ng	/ŋ/
o	/o/
p	/p/
r	/r/
s	/s/
sh	/ʃ/
t	/t/
th	/θ/
u	/ʌ/
ū	/u/
v	/v/
w	/w/
y	/j/
z	/z/
zh	/ʒ/
‘	/ʔ/
θ	/l/
π	/Θ/

Note that /ŋ/ is written <ng>, except before /k/ or /g/, in which case <n> is simply used.

Examples:

/ˈgagi/ <gagī>
/ged/ <géd>
/ˈpeʔem/ <pe'ém>
/hoʔ'ʌzi/ <ho'uzī>
/l 'waʔi/ <θ wa'ī>
/θ 'teʔun/ <π té'un>