

Ventureño Session 1

Just like English, Ventureño has consonants and vowels. Ventureño has only 6 vowels, each of which sounds similar, more or less, to some English vowel (though English has more than 6 vowels!). Some Ventureño consonants are pronounced similar to some English consonants (though the symbols we use for Ventureño will usually be different), and there are several sounds in Ventureño that English does not have at all. I've listed all the sounds in Ventureño below, and how one might pronounce them in relation to English sounds (except where English has no equivalent).

Vowels

Ventureño has six vowels, and they are written and pronounced as follows.

- a* very close to the *o* in *hot*
- e* like the *e* in *hey*, but without the *-y* sound on the end
- ə* like the *u* in *tub*
- i* like the *ee* in *meet*
- o* like *oa* in *boat*, but without the *-w* sound near the end of the vowel sound
- u* like *oo* in *boot*

Consonants

- p* like *b* in *bed* *p^h* like *p* in *pony* *p'* nothing similar in English, like Ventureño *p'ow* (to be bent)
- k* like *g* in *gold* *k^h* like *k* in *kid* *k'* nothing similar in English, like Ventureño *k'uwe* (but)
- q, q^h, q'* like all the *k* sounds, but further back in the throat (these are called *uvular stops* in linguistics)
- t* like *d* in *dog* *t^h* like *t* in *toy* *t'* nothing similar in English, like Ventureño *t'ò* (mussel)
- ts* like *ds* in *beds* *ts^h* like *ts* in *tsar* *ts'* nothing similar in English, like Ventureño *ts'ap* (his house)
- tš* like *j* in *judge* *tš^h* like *ch* in *church* *tš'* nothing similar in English

- s* always like *s* in *saw* *s^h* like *s^h* in Ventureño *s^ha* (his tooth)
- š* always like *š* in *wash* *š^h* like *š^h* in Ventureño *š^huš* (his wool)
- x* nothing similar in English, like *ch* in German *Bach* or in Ventureño *xəp*
- h* like *h* in *happy*, generally strong and audible

- m* like *m* in *month* *m̥* like in Ventureño *tuk'em̥* (lion)
- n* like *n* in *new* *n̥* like in Ventureño *poñ* (stick)
- l* always like *l* in *lick* *l̥* like in Ventureño *'at* (liver)
- w* like *w* in *win* *w̥* like in Ventureño *kuw̥* (oak tree)
- y* like *y* in *yes* *y̥* like in Ventureño *tsway̥i* (rainy season)

- '* like at the beginning and in the middle of English *uh-oh*, a 'catch in the throat' (glottal stop)

You can perhaps remember how to pronounce the consonants with a *'* next to them (*p'*, *k'*, etc) if you say the regular consonant while keeping your throat closed. Only after your tongue has made the sound should you let air out of your throat.

The *glottalized* sounds *m̥*, *n̥*, etc. can be made by producing the regular consonant, but, at the same time, constricting your throat to get a 'creeky' sound.