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Identifiers-*Preprimer

This preprimer has been developed by the Northern Arizona Supplementary Education Center in response to a renewed interest on the part of the Navaho people in learning to read their own language. A brief description of Navaho vowels, vowel length, tones, and consonants, prefaces the Navaho material. All the letters of the Navaho alphabet are introduced, being presented first in words containing contrasting sounds, and then in the context of simple sentences. The words containing the sounds being practiced are vocabulary items basic to Navaho family life, and are illustrated by simple black and white drawings to stimulate word recognition. A page-indexed Navaho/English glossary of approximately 130 lexical items is appended. (AMM)

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*Haa' íshq'
Diné Bizaad
Deiídíiltah*



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*Let's
Read
Navajo*

Preprimer

AL 001 654

by Irvy W. Goossen



***Haa'ísha'
Diné Bizaad
Deiídíiltah***

Let's Read Navajo Preprimer

by Irvy W. Goossen

**illustrated by dan harshberger
and harry walls**

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PREFACE

This preprimer has been developed because of a renewed interest on the part of the Navajo people in learning to read their own language. The book is primarily printed for them, but non-Navajos may find it helpful in their study of the language.

A number of teachers on the reservation have found that Navajo students, not only learn to read better in English, but are also more highly motivated to study English when they find that the marks on paper make sense in both languages.

All the letters of the alphabet are introduced in the course of the preprimer. Capital letters have not been used except in proper names because older people find them too difficult at first. Children however would be able to recognize them very soon since they use them in school.

HOW TO USE THE LESSONS

People who have taught the reading of the language to Navajo students have found the pocket wall chart very useful. They have usually made their own letters, some with diacritics, to make up a large number of syllables. Since the language is constructed of mono-syllables, a large number of words can soon be made from a relatively few syllable cards.

Each group will have its own problems. More attention should be given to the difficult parts. Often students find difficulty in distinguishing between the two letters, b and d. Diacritics also cause some trouble. Ditto sheets with exercises to give the students practice are helpful. Word and syllable insertion exercises are also good. Copying the lesson pages has proved very helpful, especially to older students who have had little practice in writing.

THE NAVAJO ALPHABET

VOWELS

1. There are basically four vowels in the Navajo alphabet. The vowels are as follows, the first example being a Navajo word; the last, the closest approximation in an English word:

a	gad - juniper	art
e	e'e'aah - west	met
i	sis - belt	sit
o	hosh - cactus	note

2. Vowels may be either long or short in duration, the long vowels being indicated by a doubling of the letter. Actually, there are three regular vowel lengths, a short, a long and an extra long. The extra long occurs regularly in syllables closed by a stop consonant, usually /d/ or /'/ (glottal stop). The length does not affect the quality of the vowel except that /ii/ is always pronounced as /i/ in machine.

sis - belt	the vowel is short
siziiz - my belt	the second vowel is long

3. Vowels with hooks under them are nasalized. To nasalize, some of the breath passes through the nose in producing the sound.

tsinaaba ^h as - wagon	naada ^h á' - corn
bize ^h es - his warts	háade ^h é' - from where
áshih - salt	shil ^h i' - my horse
só' - star	dló ^h ó' - prairie dog

4. When there is a tone mark on a letter, raise your voice in pitch on that syllable. Say the first word of the examples given below, and then the one across from it, after hearing a Navajo say them.

ni - you	ní - he says
azee' - medicine	azéé' - mouth
nilí - he is	nílí - you are
doo - not	dóó - and

Notice the difference in the meanings of the words in the two columns. The tone alone indicates the difference.

5. The diphthongs are as follows: ai; aai; ao; aoo; ei; eii; oi; ooi.

ai hai - winter	something like kite
ei éí - that one	day
oi deesdoi - it is warm	buoy

6. When only the first element of a vowel or a diphthong has a mark above it, the tone is falling. When the last element is marked, the tone is rising.

bilasáana - apple	deídíiltah - we will read it
dóola - bull	łitsxooí - orange

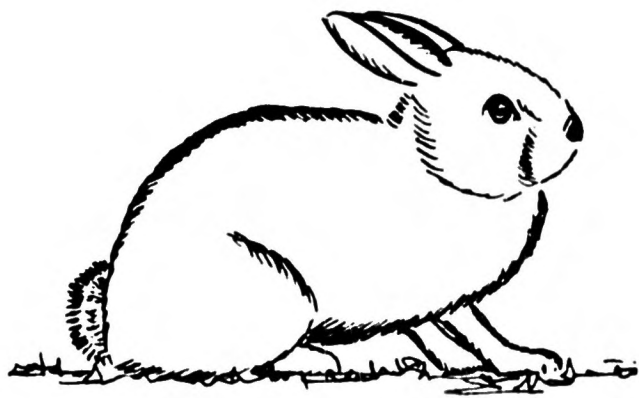
CONSONANTS

7. /' / This is the most common consonantal sound in Navajo. It is called a glottal stop and sounds like the break between the two elements of the English expression "oh, oh." The difference between "Johnny yearns" and "Johnny earns" is that the latter has a glottal closure between the two words.

e'e'aah - west	a'áán - a hole
	iv

8. Following are the rest of the consonants and their English equivalents, as nearly as they can be given.

b	bááh	bread	like p in spot
ch	chizh	firewood	like ch in church
ch'	ch'ah	hat	-----
d	dibé	sheep	like t in stop
dl	dlóó'	prairie dog	like dl in paddling
dz	dził	mountain	like dz in adze
g	gah	rabbit	like k in sky
gh	hooghan	hogan	-----
h	háadi	where	-----
hw	bił hweeshne'	I told him	like wh in when
j	jádi	antelope	like j in jug
k	ké	shoe	like k in kitten
k'	k'ad	now	-----
kw	kwe'é	right here	like qu in quick
l	lájish	glove	like l in lazy
ł	łid	smoke	-----
m	mósi	cat	like m in mosquito
n	naadáá'	corn	like n in new
s	sin	song	like s in soon
sh	shash	bear	like sh in shoe
t	tin	ice	-----
t'	t'eesh	charcoal	-----
tł	tłah	ointment	-----
tł'	tł'ízi	goat	-----
ts	tsah	needle	like ts in hats
ts'	ts'ah	sagebrush	-----
w	Wááshindoon	Washington, D.C.	like w in wash
y	yá	sky	like y in yes
z	zas	snow	like z in zero
zh	bízihi'	his name	like z in azure



gah

naadââ'

a

aa

gah

a

naadââ'

aa

a

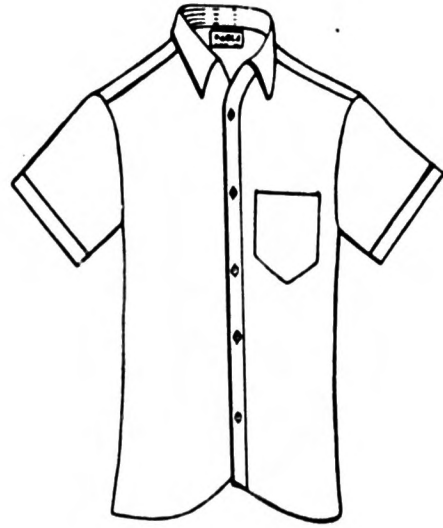
aa

2



ké

e



éé'

ee

ké

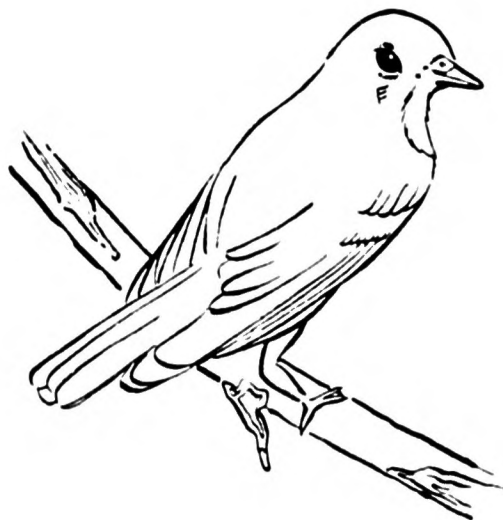
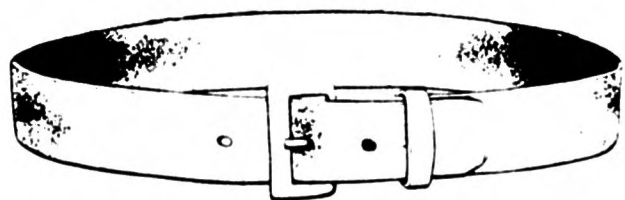
e

éé'

ee

e

ee



sis

tsíidii

i

ii

sis

i

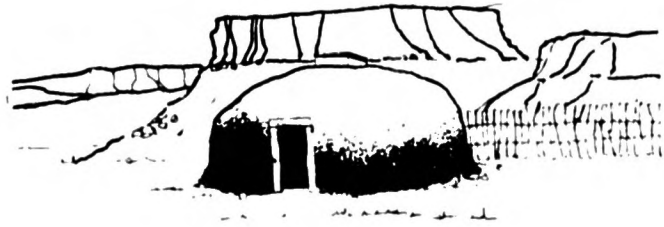
tsíidii

i ii

i

ii

4



tó

hooghan

o

oo

tó

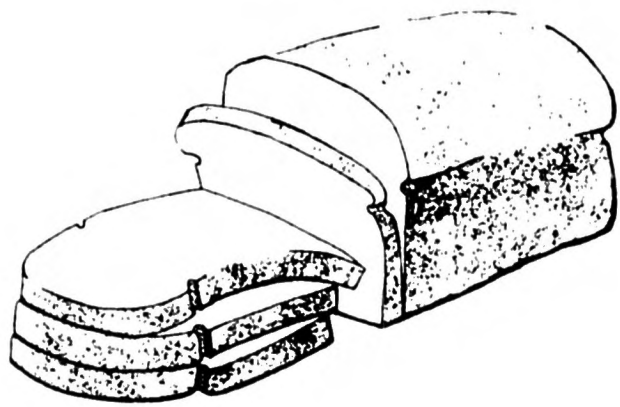
o

hooghan

oo

o

oo



bááh

Baa'

aa

aa

baa

Baa

b

B

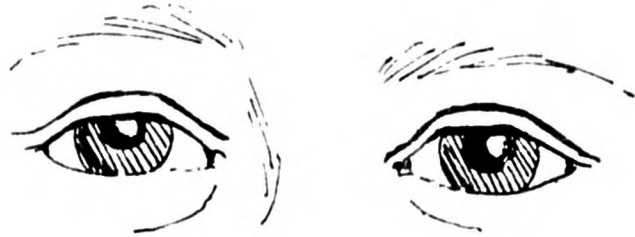
bááh

Baa'

bááh

Baa'

6



naadǎǎ' , hanáá'

naa náá'

Baa' bináá'

bináá'

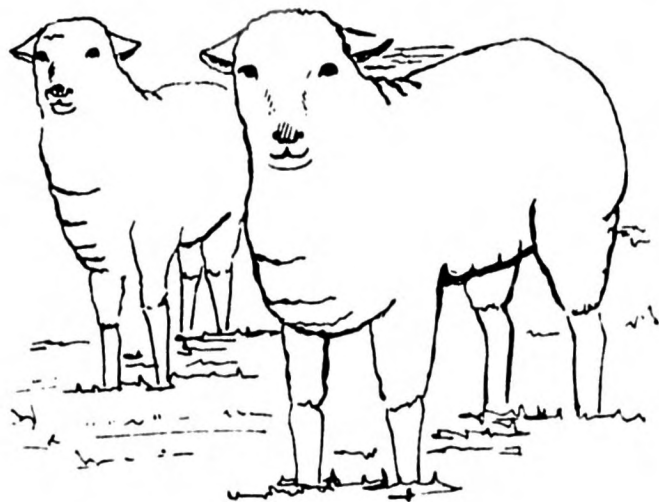
bi

naadǎǎ'

binaadǎǎ'

Baa' binaadǎǎ'

binaadǎǎ' bináá'



at'ééd

dibé

ee

e

át'é

at'ééd át'é.

Baa' át'é.

Baa' at'ééd át'é.

dibé át'é.

at'ééd bidibé át'é.

Baa' bidibé át'é.



ashkii

łíí'

kii

ashkii át'é.

kii át'é.

ashkii bilíí'.

ashkii bilíí' át'é.

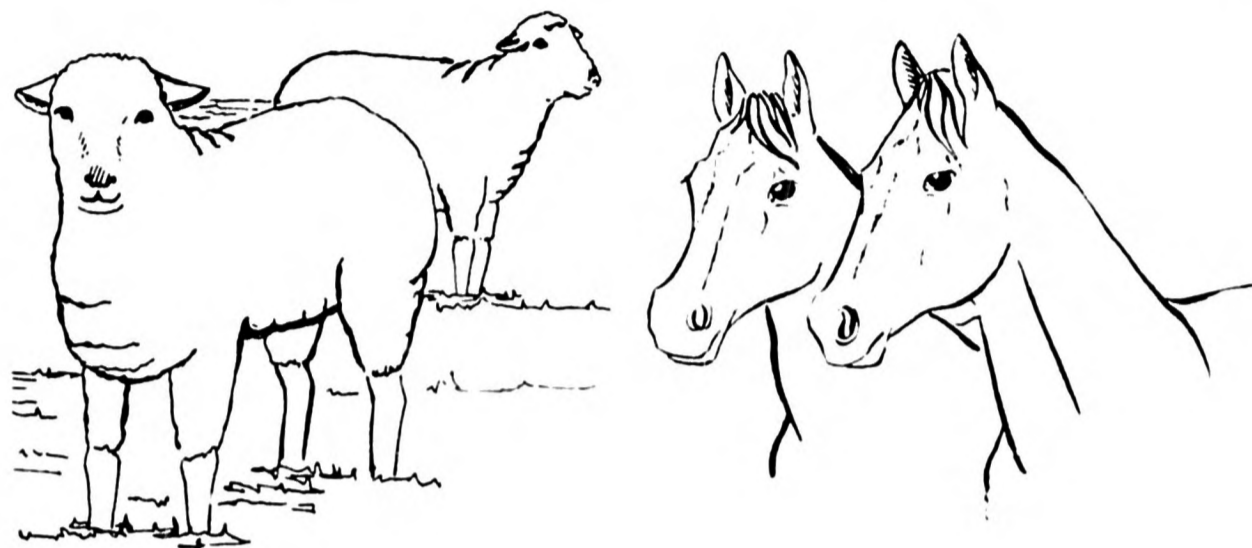
Kii bilíí' át'é.

ashkii

łíí'

ii

íí



dibé

xíí'

Baa' bidibé át'é.

Kii bilíí' át'é.

Baa' bidibé naaki.

Kii bilíí' naaki.

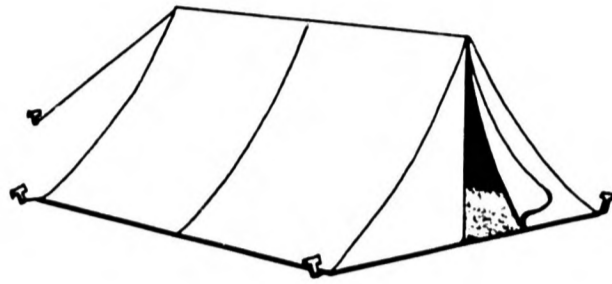
naaki

2



2

naaki



ké níbaal

Baa' bikee' át'é.

Baa' biníbaal át'é.

ní

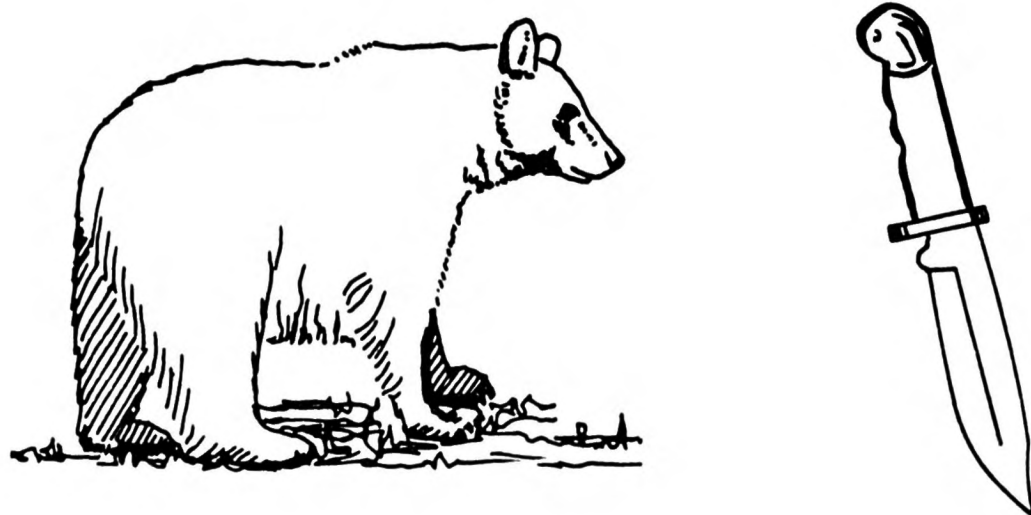
Baa' ání, shikee' át'é.

Kii ání, Baa' biníbaal

át'é.

Kii ání, Baa' bikee'

át'é, ní.



shash

béesh

sh

sh

shash

béesh

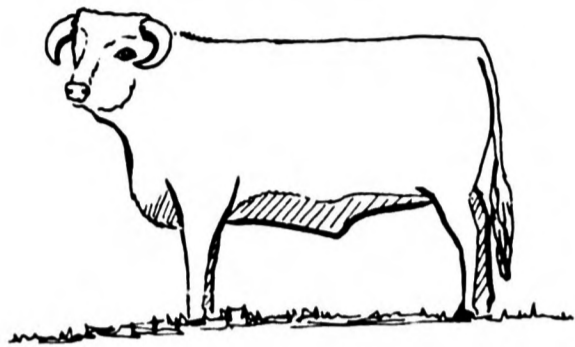
shashísh át'é?

aoo', shash át'é.

béeshísh át'é?

aoo', béesh át'é.

Kii bibéézh át'é.



dóola dághaa'

doo da

dooda

łíł'ísh át'é?

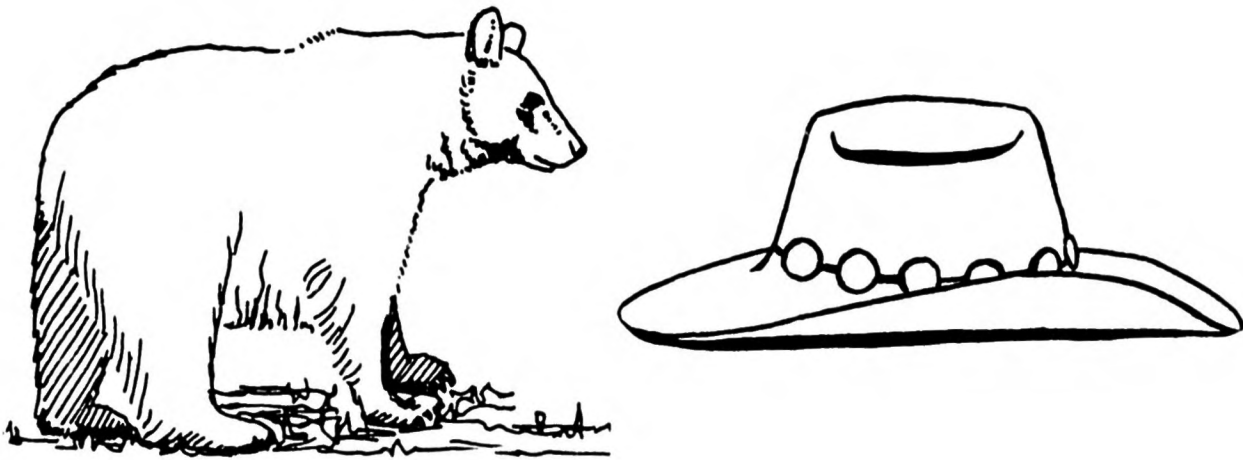
dooda, doo łíł' át'ée da.

shashísh at'é?

dooda, dóola át'é.

Kii bidághaa'ásh át'é?

doo Kii bidághaa' át'ée da.



shash

ch' ah

sha

she

shi

shich' ah

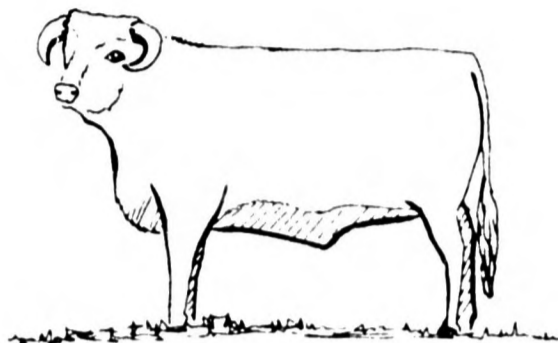
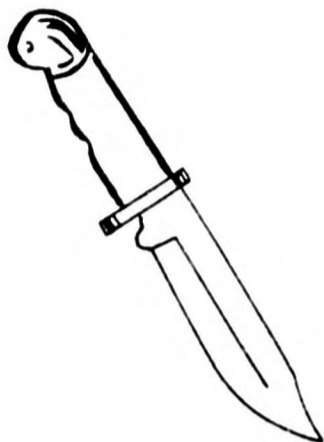
Kii ání, shich' ah át' é.

doo Baa' bich' ah

át' ée da.

shí shich' ah át' é,

ní Kii.



béesh

dóola

béesh át'é.

háish bibéézh át'é?

shibéézh át'é,, ní Kii.

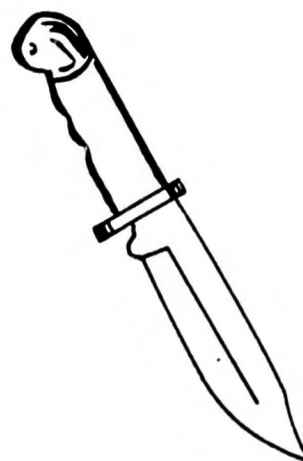
shí shibéézh át'é, ní.

háish bidóola át'é?

Kii ání, shi dóola át'é.

shí shidóola át'é, ní.

Kii bibéézh dóo bidóola át'é.



názhahí Kii bibéézh

zh

zh

zha

ézh

háish binázhahí át'é?

Baa' binázhahí át'é.

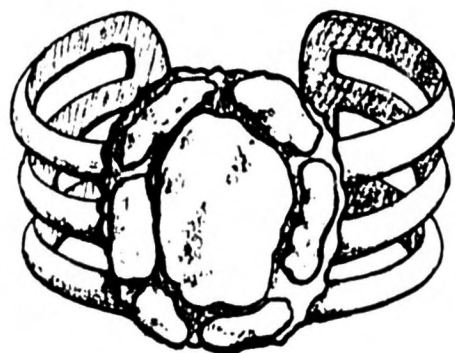
háish bibéézh át'é?

Kii bibéézh át'é.

zh

sh

zh



názhahí

látsíní

hí

lá

ha he

la le

hi ho

li lo

ho

lo

Baa' binázhahí hóló.

Baa' bilátsíní holó.

bilátsíníísh hóló?

aoo', bilátsíní hóló.



dibé yázhí at'ée yázhí

yázhí yázhí

at'ée yázhíish bidibé hóló?

aoo', bidibé yázhí hóló.

nidibé yázhíish hóló,

at'ée yázhí?

aoo', shidibé yázhí hóló.

shidibé yázhí naaki.

shí shidibé yázhí át'é.



béesh adee' adeezhí

dee dee

Kii bideezhí át'é.

bideezhí bibéesh adee'

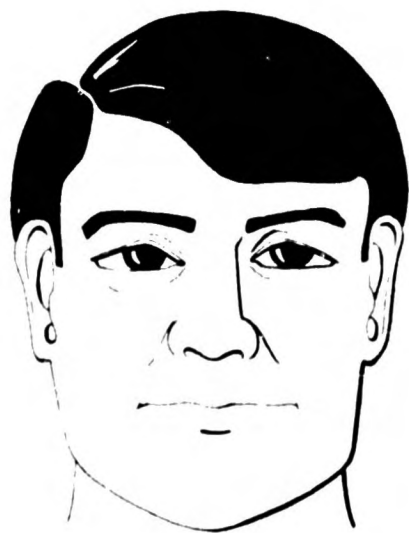
hóló.

Baa' Kii bideezhí át'é.

Kii Baa' bínaaí át'é.

bínaaí

Baa' bínaaí hóló.



azhé' é



amá

Baa' bimá hóló.

Kii bimá hóló.

Baa' dóó Kii bimá hóló.

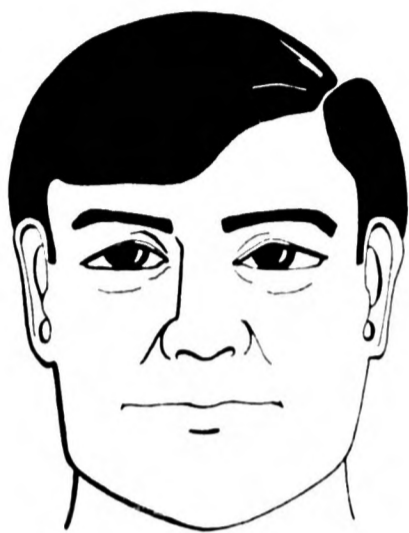
Kii bizhé' é hóló.

Baa' bizhé' é hóló.

Kii dóó Baa' bizhé' é
hóló.

zhé

má



Kii bizhé'é wóláchíí'

wol

chii

Kii bizhé'é át'é.

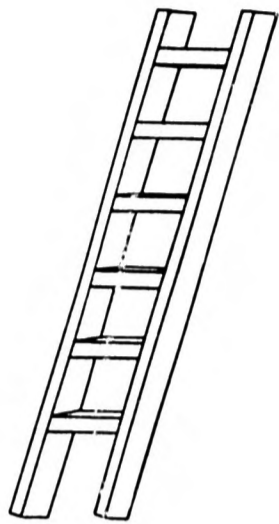
Bizhé'é Chii wolyé.

Baa' bizhé'é Chii wolyé.

wolyé

Kii dóó Baa' bizhé'é

Chii wolyé.



haaz' éí Haazbaa'

h H

haaz Haaz

Baa' bimá Haazbaa'

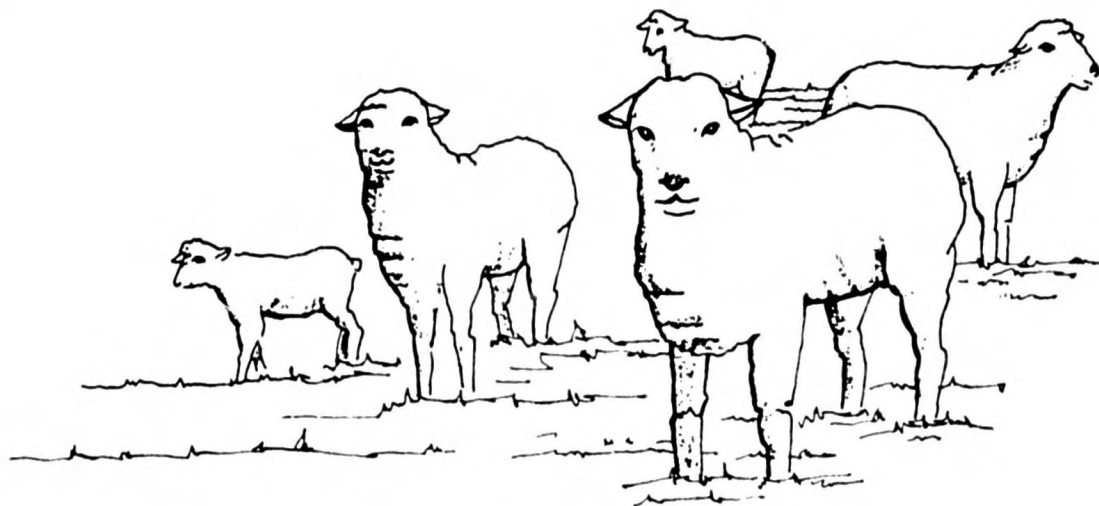
wolyé.

Kii bimá Haazbaa'

wolyé.

Baa' bimá dóó bizhé'é

Haazbaa' dóó Chi wolyé.



dibé naaki dibé táá'

ashdla'

Chii bidibé naaki.

Haazbaa' bidibé táá'.

Chii dóó Haazbaa'

bidibé dahóló.

bidibé ashdla'.

táá' 3

ashdla' 5



ʒíí'

ʒóó'

ʒi

ʒo

ʒa

ʒe

Chii bilíí' ʒa' hóló.

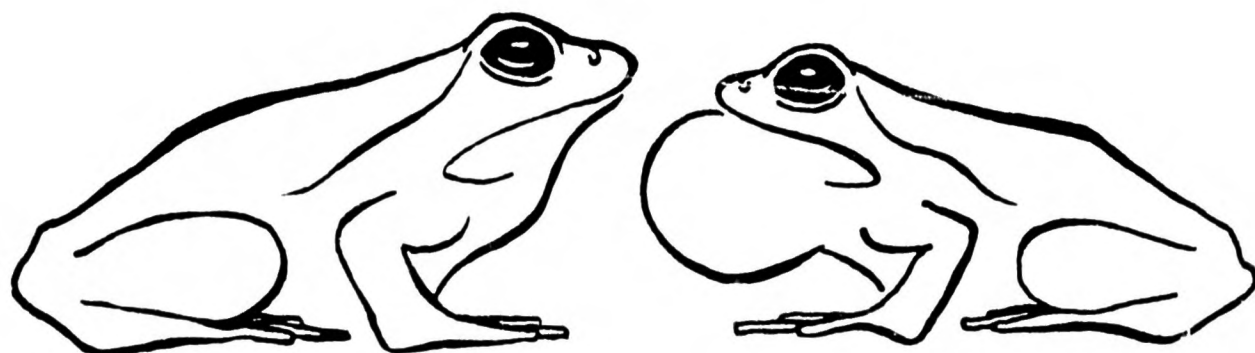
Chii bilíí' t'ááʒa'í.

ʒa

ʒóó' t'ááʒá'í

t'áá

t'ááʒá'í 1



ch'ał ch'ał áníní

ch'a ch'a

ch'ał át'é.

ła' ch'ał wolyé.

éí doo áníi da.

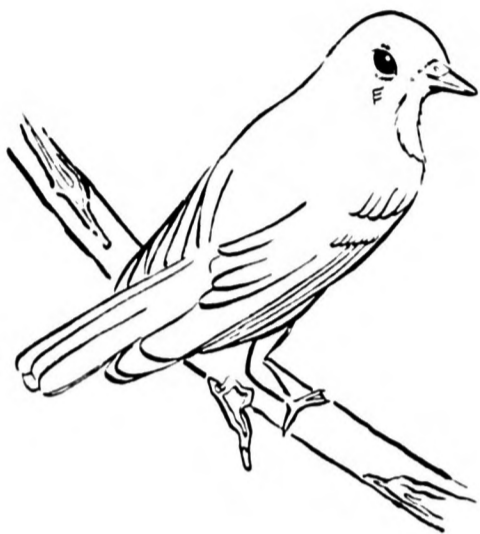
ła' éí ání.

éí ch'ał áníní wolyé.

t'áá

t'óó

ch'ał áníní t'óó ání.



tsídii



dlóó'

dii

díí tsídii wolyé.

tsídii ání.

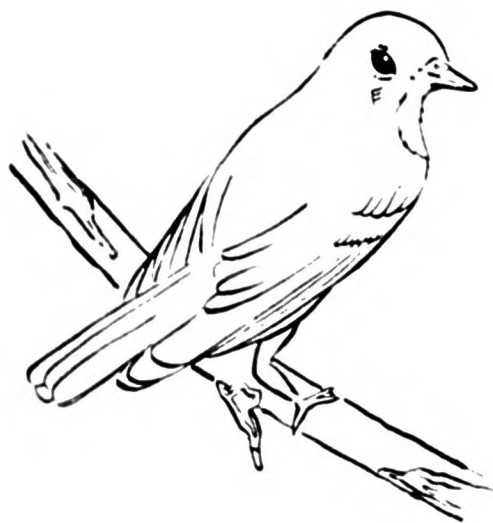
díí dlóó' wolyé.

dlóó' ałdó' ání.

ałdó'

dó'

dlóó' dó' ání.

tsí[́]diid[́]t[́]i'

dii

d[́]i'd[́]i'd[́]t[́]i'

ii

t[́]t

ii

t[́]ti[́]i't[́]t'

aa

a[́]a

ee

e[́]e

oo

o[́]o



tł'ízi

tł'oh

tł'í

tł'o

díi tł'ízi át'é.

díi tł'oh át'e.

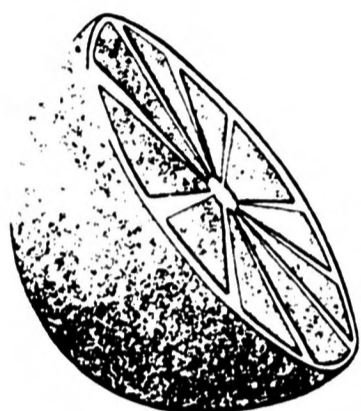
tł'ízi dóo tł'oh át'é.

tł'ízi tł'oh yiłchozh.

tł'ízi tł'oh bił łikan.

łíí' tł'oh yiłchozh.

łíí' tł'oh bił łikan.



łitsxooí ashkii

tsxo

ashkii łitsxooí yiyá.

łitsxooí bił łikan.

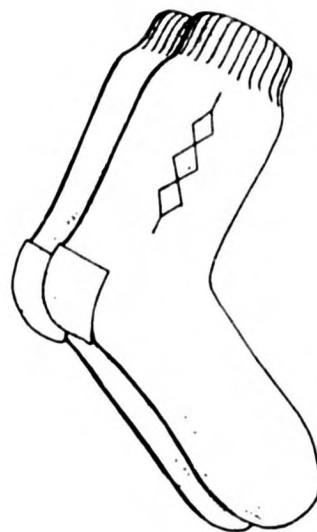
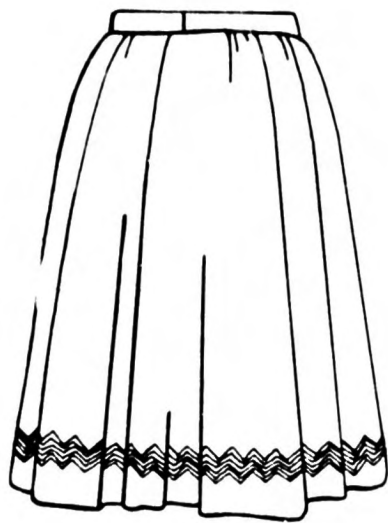
łitsxooí éí łitsxo.

ashiiké yázhí łitsxooí

íiyisí bił daalkan.

áłchíní yázhí łitsxooí

íiyisí bił daalkan.



tł'aakał yistlé

tł'a tle

tł' tł'

háish bitł'aakał át'é?

Baa' bimá bitł'aakał

át'é.

háí bistlé át'é?

Kii bistlé át'é.

Kii bistlé naaki.



amásání acheii

Baa' bimásání dóó

bicheii hólo.

Díí Baa' bimásání át'é.

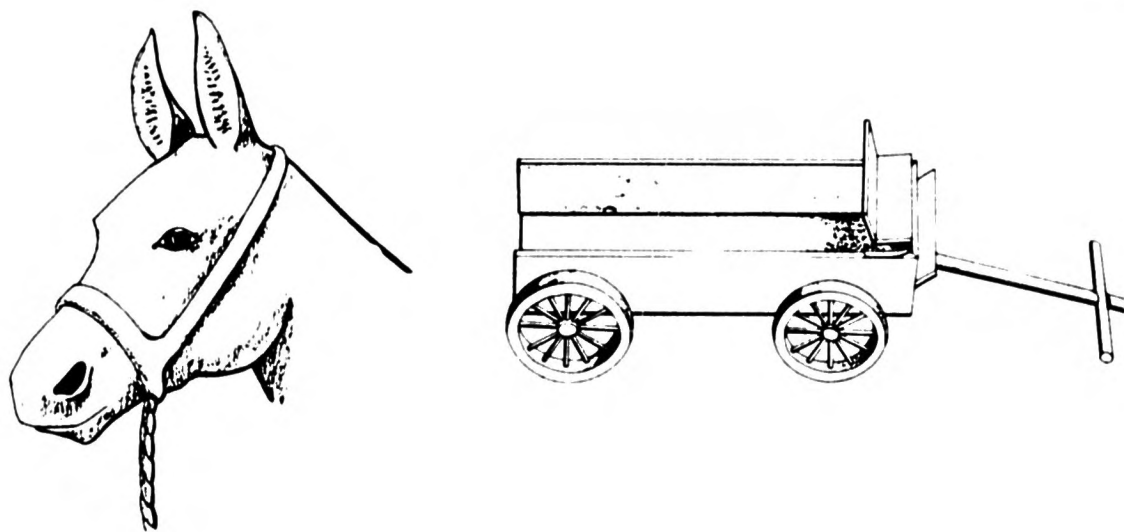
bicheii bił yá'át'ééh.

shicheii shił yá'át'ééh,

ní Baa'.

shimásání ałdó' shił

yá'át'ééh.



dzaanééz tsinaabaąs

Baa' bicheii bidzaanééz

hóló.

dzaanééz bijaa' nineez,

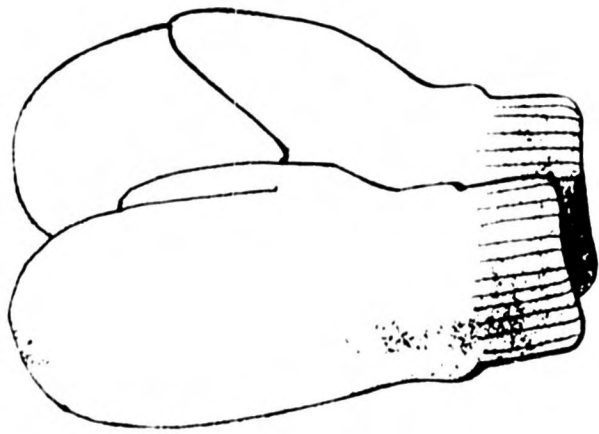
ní Baa'.

shicheii bitsinaabaąs

hóló, ní Kii.

shimásání dzaanééz doo

bił yá'át'éeh da.



jaatl'óól lájish

Baa' ání, shimásání

bijaatl'óól hóló.

Bijaatl'óól shił nizhóní.

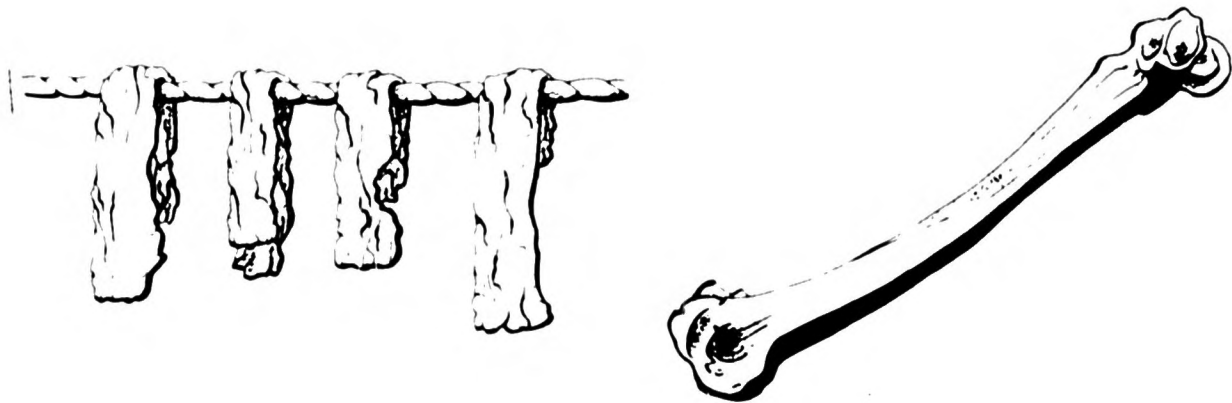
shimásání bilájish

ałdó' hóló.

bilájish ałdó' nizhóní.

lájish ajaa'

ji jo je ja



atsj'

ts'in

Kii dibé bitsj' bił Ɂikan.

ts'in doo bił Ɂikan da.

dibé bitsj' ísh nił Ɂikan,

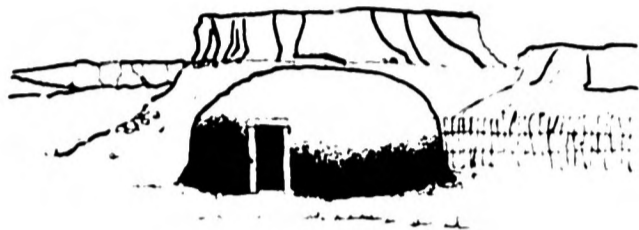
Baa', ní Kii.

aoo', éí shił Ɂikan. ni

daats'í ts'in nił Ɂikan?

dooda, ts'in doo shił

Ɂikan da.



hooghan

k'aa'

k'a

k'ad

Baa' bimásání k'ad

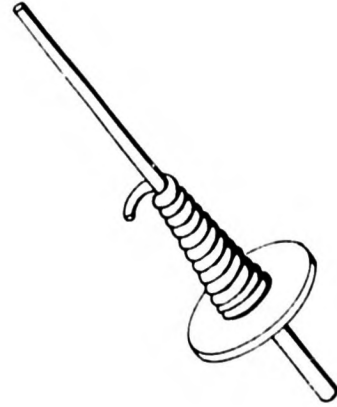
ńléidi baghan.

kwe'é baghan nt'ée'

ndi k'ad ńléidi baghan.

bimá k'ad t'áá kwe'é baghan.

bima ńléidi baghan nt'ée'.



amásání bee'adizí

adiz

Baa' bimásání adiz.

adizgo ch'ééh deeyá.

hwáah, ní.

Baa' ałdó' hwáah, ni.

doo adiz da ndi.

t'óó ch'ééh deeyá.

hwáah

hwiih

GLOSSARY

The numbers between the words and definitions indicate the page on which the word is introduced.

<u>NEW WORD</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>
acheii	31	a maternal grandfather
adiz	34	she is spinning (wool)
adizgo	35	she spinning (wool)
ajaa'	31	an ear
aldó'	25	also, too
amá	19	a mother
amásání	31	a maternal grandmother
ání	11	he, she, it says
áníní	24	the one who says
aoo'	11	yes
ashdla'	22	five
ashkii	8	boy
át'é	7	he, she, it is
at'ééd	7	girl
atsj'	34	meat, flesh
azhé'é	19	a father
Baa'	5	Bah, feminine name
bááh	5	bread
baghan	34	his, her, its home
bee'adizi	35	spindle
béésh	11	knife
béésh adee'	18	spoon
bibéézh	11	his knife
bibéésh adee'	18	her spoon
bicheii	31	his, her maternal grandfather
bich'ah	13	his hat
bidághaa'	12	his moustache
bideezhí	18	his younger sister
bidibé	7	her sheep
bidzaanééz	31	his mule
bijaa'	31	his ear
bijaatl'óól	32	his ear string
bikee'	10	his, her shoes

bilájish	32	his, her gloves
bił	27	with him, her, it
bilátsíní	16	her bracelet
bilíí'	8	his horse
bimá	19	his, her mother
bimásání	31	his, her maternal grandmother
bináá'	6	his, her, its eyes
binaadâá'	6	his corn
bínaaí	18	his, her older brother
binázhahí	15	his, her necklace
biníbaal	10	his, her tent
bistlé	29	his, her socks
bitł'aakał	29	her skirt
bitsi'	33	his, her, its flesh
bitsinaabaąs	31	his wagon
bizhé'é	19	his, her father
ch'ah	13	hat, headgear
ch'ał	24	frog
ch'ééh	35	in vain, futilely
Chi	20	Chee, masculine name
daats'í	34	maybe
daalkan	28	they are good to the taste
dághaa'	12	moustache
dahóló	22	they exist
deeyá	34	he, she is going
dibé	7	sheep
díí	25	this, these
dlóó'	25	prairie dog
dó'	25	also, too
dóó	14	and
dooda	12	no
doo...da	12	not
dóola	12	bull
dzaanééz	31	mule
éé'	2	garment
éí	24	that one

gah	1	rabbit
Haazbaa'	20	Hasbah, feminine name
haaz'éí	20	ladder
háí	29	who, which
háísh	14	who, which
hanáá'	6	his, her eyes
hóló	16	he, she, it exists
hooghan	4	hogan, home
hwááh	35	phew!
hwiih	35	satisfied
íiyisí	28	really
jaatl'óól	32	ear string
k'aa'	34	arrow
k'ad	34	now
ké	2	shoe
Kii	8	Kee, masculine name
kwe'é	34	here
la'	23	a, one, some
lájish	32	glove, mitten
látsíní	16	bracelet
líí'	8	horse
likan	27	it is good to the taste
litso	28	yellow, nickel
litsxooí	28	orange
lóó'	23	fish
naadáá'	1	corn
naaki	9	two
názhahí	15	necklace
ndi	35	but, even
ní	10	he, she, it says
níbaal	10	tent, tarp
nií	33	with you
nizhóní	32	she, it is pretty
nléidi	34	over there

shash	11	bear
shí	13	I
shibéézh	14	my knife
shich'ah	13	my hat
shil	32	with me
shimá yázhí	32	my maternal aunt
sis	3	belt
táá'	22	three
t'áá	23	just
t'áálá'í	23	one
tl'aakal	29	skirt
tl'ízi	27	goat
tl'oh	27	hay
tó	4	water
t'óó	24	merely
tsídi	3	bird
ts'in	33	bone
tsinaabaqs	31	wagon
wólachíí'	20	red ant
wolyé	20	he, she, it is called
yázhí	17	the little one
yá'át'ééh	30	it is good
yilchozh	27	it is eating, grazing
yistlé	29	socks
yiyá	28	he, she, it is eating it