


Introduction to Karuk Accent adapted from Bright (1957)

- Each Karuk word has at most one accent
- The syllable with the written accent is always **stressed**


Acute accent

- A vowel written with acute accent has level high pitch: 
- Example: the *á* in *ákah* 'father' and the *áa* in *áama* 'salmon'

Examples of words with an acute accent:

- 1 a. *á_kah* 'father'
- b. *áa_ma* 'salmon'
- c. *pú_ufích* 'deer'
- d. *áp_xaan* 'hat'
- e. *fí_thih* 'foot'

Circumflex accent

- A vowel written with circumflex accent has pitch that falls from high to low: 
- Example: the *âa* in *yâamach* 'pretty, nice' and the *ôo* in *yôotva* 'thank you'

Examples of words with a circumflex accent:

- 2 a. *yâ_amach* 'pretty'
- b. *yô_otva* 'thank you'
- c. *pû_uvish* 'bag'
- d. *ax^vâ_ah* 'head'
- e. *ish^{kê}esh* 'river'

Unaccented syllables

- If the last vowel in a word is written without an accent, it has low pitch
Example: the *i* in *púufich* 'deer' and the *a* in *yôotva* 'thank you'
- If the first vowel in a word is short, and is written without an accent, it has low pitch
Example: the *a* in *axvâah* 'head' and the *i* in *ishkêesh* 'river'