

## Basic Accent Pronunciation adapted from Bright (1957)

- Each Karuk word has at most one accent
- The syllable with the written accent is always **stressed**
- A vowel written with acute accent has level high pitch:  
Example: the *á* in *ákah* 'father' and the *áa* in *áama* 'salmon'
- 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'
- Depending on what the accent is, and where it is in the word, the pitches (or tune) of the rest of the word are all predictable:
  - An unaccented short vowel in the first syllable of a word has low pitch
  - All other syllables before the accented syllable have high pitch

1 a. *na<sup>níth</sup>vuy* 'my name'

b. *xa<sup>kinív</sup>kih* 'seven'

c. *u<sup>'imkatáx</sup>rah* 'it is bright'

d. *ik<sup>rívkihitráh</sup>yar* 'sixty'

e. *xa<sup>kinívkihitráh</sup>yar* 'seventy'

- An unaccented long vowel in the first syllable of a word has high pitch

2 a. *teexú<sup>riha</sup>* 'you're hungry'

b. *peeshkê<sup>esh</sup>* 'the river'

- All unaccented last syllables have low pitch

3 a. *áp<sup>xaan</sup>* 'hat'

b. *píh<sup>nê</sup>efich* 'coyote'

- If there are more syllables between the accented syllable and the last syllable:

- The syllable after a circumflex accent has mid pitch (4a, 4f)
- A syllable with a long vowel after an acute accent has mid pitch (4b, 4d)
- A syllable with a short vowel after an acute accent has low pitch (4c, 4e)
- A syllable two syllables after an acute accent has mid pitch (4d, 4e)
- Any other syllables after the accented syllable have low pitch (4f)

4 a. *ni<sup>vô</sup>onupuk* 'I went outside'

b. *pa<sup>'asiktá</sup>vaansa* 'the women'

c. *pa<sup>'á</sup>vansas* 'the men'

d. *ámkuufkunish* 'blue'

e. *pí<sup>rish</sup>kunish* 'green'

f. *vô<sup>onupuk</sup>tihara* 'he didn't come outside'