

Miami Pronunciation Guide

Consonants

There are 12 consonants in the Miami spelling system

	<u>as in Miami</u>	<u>as in English</u>
p	péna (potato)	paper
t	tawaáni (tree)	tie
k	akoóka (frog)	keep
c	acíwi (hill)	church
s	sakímia (mosquito)	see
š	šoóli (money)	show
h	neéhi (and)	ahead
m	miímia (pigeon)	mom
n	nihkáni (my leg)	no
l	piloóhsa (child)	leave
w	waapíki (it is white)	wish
y	yaalaánwi (five)	yarn

Vowels

There are four vowels in Miami but they appear in both a short and long form

	<u>as in Miami</u>	<u>as in English</u>
a	aníkwa (squirrel)	about
aa	waáwi (egg)	fall
e	alémwa (dog)	bet
ee	neepíka (he is dead)	made
i	nípi (water)	big
ii	níšwi (two)	see
o	ayaaló (you go)	no
oo	šoóli (money)	moose

Preaspirated Consonants

These are unique sounds not found in English. Typically a short breath before the following consonant

hp	iihpíiki (it is tall)
ht	eehteéki (it is located /at)
hk	mahkwá (bear)
hs	noóhsa (my father)
hš	kióhšia (elder man)
hc	moóhci (no/not)

Other Rules

These are some unique standard rules to apply to the Miami spelling system (V=any vowel)

	<u>as in Miami</u>	<u>in English</u>
nk	nínkya (my mother)	linger
nt	kiníwa (golden eagle)	tinder
ns	kinsoóyi (your tail)	frenzy
nc	iilínci (he is told)	conjure
nš	pinšíwa (bobcat)	pleasure
mp	nimpíílaa (I bring him)	lumber
mVs	masaána (thread)	-maz-
nVs	lénaswa (buffalo)	-naz-
mVš	mahkomíši (sumac tree)	-mizh-
nVš	taaníši (how)	-nizh-