

Agenda

1. An Introduction to First Nations Languages
2. Anishinaabemowin syllabics - What are they?
3. Examples of Anishinaabemowin syllabics
4. Tasks - Implement a program that can translate between English and Anishinaabemowin syllabics

Download the Starter Files!

If you want to complete these tasks on your IDE, be sure to download the starter files [here!](#)

First Nations Languages - An Introduction

Though much attention is given to English in our programs, our code can accommodate other languages as well!

In particular, this sub-module will focus on the writing system used by the “Anishinaabe” people, using its alphabet and phrase translations found [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.

Learn - The "Anishinaabe"

The "Anishinaabe" is a group of First Nations peoples that resides around the Great Lakes region of Canada and the United States. They use a unique writing system, called "Anishinaabemowin syllabics"

Δαdʃ^ə

The above syllabary is pronounced as "inagoshin" and translates to "It is evening" in English.

What are your thoughts about this new writing system?

A Quick Disclaimer

The content of this module heavily relies on the translations and alphabets provided by [FirstVoices](#), a website that provides resources for multiple different First Nations languages.

As a result, we **cannot guarantee** the accuracy of all linguistic information shown throughout this module. However, these resources can still give us some insight into the experiences of First Nations peoples as well as their culture and language.

Learn - Examples

Let's look at some more examples of Anishinaabemowin and English.

In English, the phrase

It is 1 o'clock.

can be expressed in Anishinaabemowin syllabics by writing

ᑭᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦ.

This Anishinaabemowin phrase is pronounced as "bezhik izhise".

Learn - Examples

Similarly, to say

It is 10 o'clock.

we can write the following in Anishinaabemowin syllabics

ᐣᐣᐣ ᐃᐣᐣ.

The above syllabary is pronounced as "madaaso izhise".

What do you notice from these examples?

Translating Between English and Anishinaabemowin Syllabics

Noticeably, translating between English and Anishinaabemowin syllabics can be difficult, especially since Anishinaabemowin syllabics is very different from English.

We've provided you a CSV file, `ani_eng_phrases.csv`, which contains 20 different Anishinaabemowin syllabic to English translations.

Using this file, let's create a program to make this translation process easier!

Task

1

Fill in the appropriate lines in the function

```
1 find_phrase( eng_search_phrase: str,  
2              ani_search_phrase: str) -> Dict[str, str]:
```

which returns a dictionary where the keys are English phrases and the value of a key is an English phrase's Anishinaabemowin syllabic translation. Ensure your function works for both English and Anishinaabemowin options.

Note: You **cannot** import the library "csv" to read `ani_eng_phrases.csv`.

Task 2

Fill in the appropriate lines in the function

```
1 write_results( translation_dict: Dict[str, str],  
2               eng_translation: bool , phrase_to_find: str) -> None:
```

which writes your translation results to a new file.

The contents written by `write_results` should be **identical** to what is printed by `print_results`, **excluding** the "End of results." line.

Extra Questions

These questions are not necessary, but can help get some more coding practice and learn more about Anishinaabemowin syllabics! Note that these are very open-ended. Nevertheless, we encourage you to discuss your answers with other people.

1. Have a closer look at how `write_results` names its files. Is there anything wrong? If so, how might you solve this issue?

Extra Questions

2. We've included another file named `more_phrases.csv`, which has 60 Anishinaabemowin syllabic and English phrases, rather than 20.

Play around with your program using this new file by inputting different English and Anishinaabemowin syllabic phrases. What patterns do you notice?

Eg. What results do you get when you input the Anishinaabemowin syllabics "ΔJԿ"?

Extra Questions

3. Though convenient, dictionaries aren't the only way to complete these tasks! Using your mastery of **lists**, modify your starter code so that **no dictionaries** are used to both print and write your translation results.

References

- First Peoples' Cultural Foundation. (n.d.-a). FirstVoices.com. FirstVoices. <https://www.firstvoices.com/pafnw-anihsinapemowin/alphabet>
- First Peoples' Cultural Foundation. (n.d.-b). FirstVoices.com. FirstVoices. <https://www.firstvoices.com/pafnw-anihsinapemowin/phrases>