

**CHAPTER 7
CHAMORRO ORTHOGRAPHY
(SPELLING RULE)**

- §7100. Proper Names.
- §7101. Capitalization.
- §7102. Choice of Alphabetic Symbols and Corresponding Sounds.
- §7103. Diphthongs.
- §7104. Consonant Symbols in Final Position.
- §7105. Unstressed Vowels in Open Syllables in CVCV and CVCCV
Constructions.
- §7106. Unstressed Vowels in Closed Syllables.
- §7107. Stressed Vowels.
- §7108. Spelling of Borrowed Words.
- §7109. Consonant Alternation.
- §7110. Excrescent Consonants.
- §7111. Superfluous Consonants.
- §7112. Gemminate Consonants and Syllable-Final h.
- §7113. Vowel Harmony.
- §7114. Free Words.
- §7115. Affixes.
- §7116. Clitics.

NOTE: Rule-making authority for formulation of Chamorro Orthography, 17 GCA Chapter 46.

§7100. Proper Names. (a) Names of people will retain their spelling.

(b) Family names which have never been written before will be Chamorroized in spelling.

(c) Proper names will not conform to 5 GAR §§6108 and 8109.

(d) Place names that are of Chamorro origin will be Chamorroized in spelling.

For example: Inarajan -- Inalahan
 Ritidian -- Litekyan

(e) Newly named places with no known Chamorro names will retain their written names.

For example: Banzai Cliff Nimitz Hill

(f) Months, days and numerals shall conform to Chamorro spelling rules.

§7101. Capitalization. (a) Proper names of people, places, animals, things, institutions and organizations, titles, days of the week, months of the year and the beginning of sentences will be capitalized.

(b) The affixed forms of proper names shall be capitalized.

For example: -um- + Sablan = Sumablan
 -in- + Sablan = Sinablan
 -um- + Afaisen = UmAfaisen
 -in- + Afaisen = InAfaisen
 -um- + Angoco = UmAngoco
 -in- + Angoco = InAngoco

N.B. The affixed forms of proper nouns beginning with vowels will have both the affix and the name capitalized.

(c) When the plural subject marker (man- is affixed to a proper name, m will also be capitalized.

For example:

man- + Chamorro = ManChamorro
 man- + Juan = ManJuan

(d) The conventional practice of capitalizing pronouns relating to the divinity itself will be followed.

§7102. Choice of Alphabetic Symbols and Corresponding Sounds. (a) The following list of consonants and vowel symbols and their corresponding sounds will be used in Chamorro spelling. They are given here in alphabetical order. Example words are given to illustrate the phonetic value of each of the spelling symbols.

Symbol	Sound	Example Word	English Meaning
'	/ʔ/	haga'	blood
a	/ae/	b <u>a</u> ba	open (note: the same symbol <u>a</u> used to represent sounds)
a	/a/	b <u>a</u> ba	bad
b	/be/	<u>b</u> aba	bad
ch/che/		<u>ch</u> alan	road
d	/de/	<u>d</u> aggao	throw
e	//	<u>e</u> kungok	listen
f	/fe/	<u>f</u> ugo'	squeeze
g	/ge/	ga' <u>g</u> hong	friend
h	/he/	<u>h</u> atsa	lift
i	/i/	hi <u>t</u> a	we (inclusive)
k	/ke/	<u>k</u> ada	each
l	/le/	<u>l</u> itratu	picture
m	/me/	<u>m</u> alago'	want
n	/ne/	<u>n</u> ana	mother
n	/ne/	<u>n</u> amu	mosquito
ng	/nge/	<u>ng</u> inge'	sniff
o	/o/	<u>o</u> ppe	answer
p	/pe/	<u>p</u> achot	mouth
r	/re/	<u>r</u> amas	branch
s	/se/	<u>s</u> addock	river
t	/te/	<u>t</u> aya'	nothing
u	/u/	<u>u</u> chan	rain
y	/ye/	<u>y</u> an	and

(b) The letters c, j, q, v, w, x, z, ll and rr will be used in the spelling of proper names only.

For Example:	Symbol	Proper Names
	C	Carmen Cecilia
	J	Jose John
	Q	Quichocho
	V	Vicente
	W	Wilfred
	X	Xavier Xena
	ll	Quintanilla
	rr	Chamorro Barrigada

(c) The glottal stop will be used in alphabetizing words.

For Example: gua'gua' na'na' ba'ba'

guagua' nana ba'ba'
 baba
 baba

§7103. Diphthongs. (a) The diphthongs in the writing system will be treated as sequence of vowels. The most common diphthongs are as follows:

ao	ta <u>o</u> tao	person
ai	ta <u>i</u> tai	read
oi	bo <u>i</u>	boy
io	baka <u>sio</u> n	vacation
ie	si <u>e</u> tte	seven
ia	estor <u>i</u> a	story
iu	pres <u>i</u> u	price

(b) All the letter combinations of the above listed diphthongs shall be treated as diphthongs, unless the glottal stop is distinctively heard between the two (2) vowels.

For Example:

Letter Combination	Diphthongs	Not Diphthongs
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ie	si <u>e</u> tte	li'e'
io	adi <u>o</u> s	fi'on
ia	estor <u>i</u> a	espiha
iu	pres <u>i</u> u	fihu

A sure test of diphthong is when both vowels reduplicate.

(c) The letter h rather than the glottal stop ' shall be used in spelling of non-diphthong combinations of io, ie, ia and iu, which are sometimes confused with diphthongs.

For Example:fi <u>h</u> u	not	fi'u
pase <u>h</u> u	not	pase'u
mane <u>h</u> a	not	mane'a

§7104. Consonant Symbols in Final Position. (a) The following consonants will not appear at the end of a word: b, ch, d, g, h, l, n, r, y.

(b) The consonants b, d, g and l may appear at the end of a syllable only when the consonant is gemminate, i.e., when the following syllable of the same word begins with the same sound.

For Example:

yab <u>b</u> ao	slash
god <u>d</u> e	to tie
hal <u>l</u> a	pull
megg <u>g</u> ai	many

N.B. Chamorro and Barrigada are not gemminate. Rule 1 applies.

§7105. Unstressed Vowels in Open Syllables in CVCV and CVCCV Constructions. (a) The letters i and u will be used to represent unstressed vowels in open syllables (where C = consonant, V = vowel).

For Example:	lah <u>i</u>	man
	hag <u>u</u>	you
	na' <u>i</u>	give
	lag <u>u</u>	north

The same rule applies to unstressed vowels in open syllables of poly-syllabic words except when the preceding is o or e.

For Example:	Sangan <u>i</u>	tell how
	dalal <u>a</u> k <u>i</u>	follow
	but	
	triangg <u>o</u> l <u>o</u>	a triangle
	dangk <u>o</u> l <u>o</u>	big
	proksem <u>o</u>	approximate

In the case of dangkolo, etc., the first o results from the preceding consonant cluster ngk (cf. Rule 6B); the final o results from the preceding o through vowel harmony.

(b) The unstressed vowels in open syllables following a sequence of consonants will be represented by e and o.

For Example: tattee listoo
 ho'ye hallaa
 hamyoo

N.B. The sounds represented by some of the vowels above may appear to be misrepresented (i.e., tatte_e instead of tatti_i). However, all of the examples under Rule 6 are unstressed vowels when their pronunciation may vary. The "true" sounds are assumed to exist thus the vowels are stressed as in tatte-ku.

(c) The letter a (ae) will be used in unstressed open syllables in both the CVCV and CVCCV constructions.

For Example: mataa

(d) The following blends/digraphs will be considered as one consonant for spelling purposes.

br	pr	pl
brongko	prensa	pluma
brohas	preba	platu
bruha	prugrama	planta
bl	fl	tr
blangko	aflitu	troso
tapbla	flores	trangka
misirable	flecha	trongko
fr	kl	
fresko	changkletas	
fruta	klasifika	
fritada	mesklao	

§7106. Unstressed Vowels in Closed Syllables. The vowels e, o and a, will be used to represent the unstressed vowels in closed syllables, i.e., syllables which end with a consonant.

For Example: huyong go out

hal <u>o</u> m	go in
lap <u>e</u> s	pencil
li'e'	see
hakm <u>a</u> ng	eel

§7107. Stressed Vowels. All vowels will be used to represent stressed vowels in both closed and opened syllables when the quality of the sound in the word is clearly that which is associated with the vowels.

Examples:	as <u>u</u> t	blue	ti <u>s</u>	stiff
	hatd <u>i</u> n	garden	t <u>u</u> b <u>u</u>	tube
	y <u>u</u> '	I	l <u>e</u> ch <u>e</u>	milk
	h <u>o</u> t <u>n</u> o	oven	b <u>o</u> t <u>i</u>	boat
	b <u>a</u> tsala	pull	t <u>a</u> t <u>a</u>	father

§7108. Spelling of Borrowed Words. (a) English, Spanish and Japanese words which have been assimilated into Chamorro will be spelled according to the general rules for Chamorro spelling. The spelling will reflect the changes in pronunciation.

For Example:

Spanish	Chamorro	English
lavador	labadot	sink
verde	betde	green
paloma	paluma	dove
caballo	kabayu	horse
Japanese	Chamorro	English
zori	yore'	thongs
dengke	dengke'	light

English	Chamorro
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ice cream	aiskrim
cake	kek
chaser	chesa

(b) Recently borrowed English words will retain their English spelling and will be placed in single quotation when in print. When an English word contains Chamorro affixes, then it will be spelled according to the general rules for Chamorro spelling. Examples of the latter type are:

pumpiknik	on a picnic
bumabasketbo'	playing basketball
manekspleplen	explaining

§7109. Consonant Alternation. (a) When the pronunciation of consonants changes due to affixation, the spelling will be changed accordingly to represent the change in pronunciation. Most of the changes in consonants are caused by the affixation of the prefix man-, as in the following examples:

man-	+	po'lo	=	mamo'lo	to put
man-	+	tana'	=	manana'	to taste
man-	+	kati	=	mangati	to cry
man-	+	saga	=	managa	to stay
man-	+	chalek	=	manalek	to laugh
man-	+	fegge'	=	namegge'	to make a footprint

N.B. In some dialects of Chamorro the sounds are not assimilated. For example, in Rota, it is usually mansaga instead of managa.

(b) The following are examples of poly-syllabic words in which the initial consonant of the baseword is not deleted:

man-	+	pachakati	=	manpachakati
man-	+	pagamento	=	manpagamento
man-	+	pendehu	=	manpendehu
man-	+	pentura	=	manpentura
man-	+	piligru	=	manpiligru

(c) The pronunciation of the first person singular possessive pronoun hu is determined by the stem to which

it is attached. For example, it pronounced tu when it follows a stem ending with t, as in pachot-tu, my mouth. It is pronounced su when it follows a stem ending with s, as in lassas-su, my skin. And, it is pronounced ku when it follows a stem that ends with a vowel preceded by two (2) consonants, as in lepblo-ku, my book. However, for purposes of spelling, only hu and ku will be used.

§7110. Excrescent Consonants. (a) When additional consonants are added through affixation, they will be represented in the spelling system. The underlined in the following are examples of excrescent consonants.

n - lepblo + -mami = lepblo + n + -mami = lepblo-n-mami, our book

n - saga + -naihon = saga + n + -naihon = sagannaihon, stay a while

g - hanao + -i = hana + g + u + -i = hanague*, go for someone's behalf

y - sangan + -i = sangan + i + y + -i = sanganiyi, tell for someone

' - a + agang = a + 'l + agang = a'agang, be calling

*3 GAR §6105 applies here.

§7111. Superfluous Consonants. When the pronunciation of the consonant t before ch is predictable, and a midvowel follows ch, only ch will be written.

For Example:

leche eskabeche ganggoche

pacha noche ocho

§7112. Gemminate Consonants and Syllable- Final h. Although the pronunciation of gemminate consonants and syllable-final h varies among different speakers of Chamorro, they will be included in the spelling. Some example words are:

tommo knee sahnge strange

langgua parrot fish mamahlao be bashful

fatto come halla pull

meggai many mohmo chew for

§7113. Vowel Harmony. (a) **Vowel Fronting.** When the pronunciation of a vowel is changed due to vowel fronting, this change will be reflected in the spelling, as in the following examples:

foggon i feggon the stove

guma' i gima' the house

sun*i* i sini the taro

(b) **Vowel Raising.** When the syllable construction (CVC) of a word is changed through affixation, the vowel change - raising - will be reflected in the spelling in consistence with 5 GAR §6107.

For example:

CVC -- CVCV (5 GAR §6107)

fugo' + -i = fugu'i

toktok + -i = toktuki

(c) **Vowel Lowering.** When the syllable construction of a word is changed through a semantics construction the vowel change - lowering - will be reflected in the spelling in consistence with 5 GAR §6108.

For example:

CVCV -- CVCVC (5 GAR §6106.)

sun*i*+ n = sunen-mami

lahi + n = lahen Maria

N.B. Vowel lowering occurs when excrescent consonant n is added to words that have CV structure at the end. (See above)

§7114. Free Words. (a) All content words (adjectives, verbs, nouns) will be written as separate words in Chamorro. Some examples of content words are:

kareta	car
dangkolo	big
fugo'	squeeze

(b) The following function words (articles, particles, etc.) will be written as separate words in Chamorro:

Function Word	Example Phrase	<u>English</u> Meaning
i	<u>i</u> palao'an	the woman
ni'	_____ <u>ni</u> ' palao'an	from, which (relational term) woman
si	<u>si</u> Juan	(honorific) John
as	<u>as</u> Juan	(located at) John
nu	<u>nu</u> guahu	me
na	dangkolo <u>na</u> taotao	big man
ha'	Hu tungo' <u>ha</u> '.	I already know.
fan	Nangga <u>fan</u> ,	Wait a minute,
un ratu	please.	
ni	<u>ni</u> hayi	no one
u	Para <u>u</u> hanao.	He will go.
bai	Para <u>bai</u> hanao.	I will go.

(c) **Exceptions.** The word gof functions both as an intensifier and as a derivational prefix.

For Example: gof (intensifier)

Ha gof li'e' i patgon.
He/She sees the child very well.

gof (derivational)

Ha gofli'e i patgon.
He/She loves the child very much.

The words gai and tai function both as derivational prefixes and as function words.

For Example:

_____ tai (derivational)

Ti taiguenao macho'gue'-na i che'cho'.

That's not the way to do the work.

(function word)

Tai magagu i patgon.
The child does not have clothes.

gai (derivational)

Gai'ase' nu guahu.
Have mercy on me.

(function word)

Gai salape' i palao'an.
The woman has money.

(d) Function words sen, sin, tai and gai. The spelling of these words change when they are infixized with -um- and prefixized with man-.

For Example:

sen	+	-um-	=	sumen	=	sumen dangkolo
sin	+	-um-	=	sumin	=	sumin magagu
tai	+	-um-	=	tumai	=	tumai salape'
gai	+	-um-	=	gumai	=	gumai salape'
man-	+	sen	=	mansen	=	mansen dangkolo
man-	+	sin	=	mansin	=	mansin magagu
man-	+	tai	=	mantai	=	mantai salape'
man-	+	gai	=	manggai	=	manggai salape'

For the purpose of spelling, these function words should not be combined with any content word.

For Example:

manggai kareta --prefixed function

manggai content word,

kareta

§7115. Affixes. (a) **Prefixes.** The following list contains the prefixes of Chamorro which will be written as part of the word to which they are attached:

a-	umapacha	touch each other
acha-	achalokka'	same height
an-	ansopbla	left over
chat-	chatbunita	slightly pretty
e- & o-	esapatos	shop for shoes
	otenda	go shopping
fa'-	fa'na'an	to name
ga'-	ga'maigo'	likes to sleep
ge'-	ge'papa	further down
ha-	hapoddong	prone to falling
hat-	hattalom	move in
ka-	kama'gas	having some authority
ke-	kehatsa	about to lift
la-	lage'hilo'	further up
ma-	mataitai	was read (passive marker only)
man-	manaitai yu'	I prayed (indirect object marker)
man-	manhas'pok	They are full. (plural subject marker)
mi-	misalape'	lots of money
mina'-	mina'tres	third
na'-	na'gasgas	to make clean
san-	sanme'na	toward the front
tai-	taiguenao	like that
tak-	takhilo'	way up high
talak-	talakhiyong	look towards the outside
ya-	yamo'nana	way up front

NOTE: The classifiers na', ga', gimen and iyon will be written as separate words or with a clitic when used with a possessive pronoun.

For Example:

na'ga'lagu	dog food
ga'-na guaka	his/her cow
gimen-hu kafe	my coffee
iyon patgon	thing belonging to a child

(b) Infixes:

(1) The following infixes -um- and -in- will be written as part of the word:

hugando -- humugando

huyong -- humuyong

na'i - nina'i

magof -- minagof

(2) The syllable, la, is frequently inserted into Chamorro words that represent sounds as in kaskas - kalaskas, pangpang - palangpang, pakpak - palakpak, paspas - palaspas.

(c) **Suffixes.** The following list contains the suffixes of Chamorro which will be written as part of a word to which they are attached. The first item on the list is called a discontinuous affix. The prefix fan- is dependent upon the suffix -yan to give a complete meaning of the word.

For Example:

fan- -yan	=	<u>fanbinaduyan</u>	place of deer
-yan	=	<u>fama'gasiyan</u>	place for washing
-on	=	<u>guasa'on</u>	sharpener
-yon	=	<u>guaiyayon</u>	lovable
-naihon	=	<u>sagannaihon</u>	stay for a while
-guan	=	<u>pinalakse'guan</u>	slip of the tongue
-na	=	<u>bunitana</u>	prettier
-i	=	<u>sagani</u>	to tell to someone
-yi	=	<u>sanganiyi</u>	to tell to someone for someone's behalf
-an	=	<u>minigu'an</u>	having secretion from the eyes

N.B. The -an suffix has an allomorph variant -guan as in paguan (from pao + -an). This is not the same as the -guan suffix. Other suffixes also have allomorphs variants. The most common is -gue for the suffix -i as in hanaigue.

(d) Reduplication. Reduplicated syllables are written as part of the word:

(1) In the case of diphthongs other than ai or ao, the entire diphthong is repeated.

For Example:

Siesiette but tataitai bakasiosion but sasaonao

(2) In closed syllables, the final consonant is not repeated.

For Example:

toktok -- toktoktok

tohge -- totohge

N.B. Reduplicated syllables and infixes will be written as part of the word even though the resulting words may contain an unusually large number of letters. Words will be divided on the basis of the rules presented in this paper, not on the basis of length. Some examples of the long words resulting from multiple affixation and reduplication are given here:

ma'anao -- manachachama'nao

ge'hilo' -- na'lage'hilulu'i

guaiya -- manmangguaguaiya

§7116. Clitics. The clitic will be used to show the special relationship that possessive pronouns, directional words and others have with the stem to which they are attached.0

Examples: **Possessive**

rilos-hu	my watch
rilos-mu	your watch
rilos-na	his/her watch
rilos-ta	our (incl.) watch
rilos-mami	our (excl.) watch
rilos-miyu	your (plural) watch
rilos-niha	their watch

Directional

hanao-guatu on your way over go to

chule'-magi	bring it on your way over here
po'lon-guatu	drop it on your way there

N.B. The same mark used to represent a clitic will also be used to hyphenate syllables when breaking a word.