



*the
Chickasaw
Nation*

CHICKASAW LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Chickasaw language

The Chickasaw language is a Muskogean language. Chickasaw and Choctaw together form the Western branch of the Muskogean language family. Chickasaw is also related to Alabama, Koasati, Mvskoke (Creek) - Seminole, Hitchiti and Mikasuki.

Current state of the Chickasaw language

The Chickasaw language was the primary language of the Chickasaw people for hundreds of years. Our language loss happened over time. Boarding schools, which prohibited Indian languages, were a significant part of this loss. Learning English was encouraged by some of our people because English was a necessary skill in negotiating with non-Indians. Chickasaw language was often discouraged, even in our own tribally run schools.



The current state of Chikashshanompa' (the Chickasaw language), is similar to that of most tribes in the United States. Less than twenty languages spoken by tribes in the United States are projected to survive another hundred years. In 1994, the estimated number of fluent Chikashshanompa' speakers was less than one thousand. Today, there are less than 50 speakers, all older than 60. A recent study indicated the Chickasaw Nation could lose its last fluent speaker in 20 to 30 years if nothing is done to revitalize the language. However, there is a resurgence of interest in Chickasaw language. Our people realize the value of speaking the language. They are participating in community language classes, taking part in language camps and clubs, and learning on their own through self-study programs like Rosetta Stone Chickasaw.



Chickasaw ways of speaking

Speakers of the language often have slightly different ways of speaking Chickasaw. These variations are regional, associated with the north of the Chickasaw Nation (communities like Kullihoma' and Ada) and the south of the Chickasaw Nation (communities like Tishomingo, Fillmore and Ardmore). One good example is the word for 'hello.' Northern speakers tend to say 'chokma,' while southern speakers may choose to say 'hallito.' For 'thank you,' northern speakers may say 'chokma'shki,' while southern speakers may say 'yakkookay.' These variations are neither "right" nor "wrong," but simply reflect the speaking preferences of Chickasaw families within a certain geographic areas.



Chickasaw Dictionaries

A Chickasaw Dictionary was compiled as a "list of Chickasaw words in a very simple manner. Disregarding all rules of orthography, we made an effort to spell the words as they sound, in the hope that anyone using the list could pronounce them." In contrast, *Chickasaw: An Analytical Dictionary* uses a new spelling system that "represents tonal accent and the glottal stop, neither of which is shown in any previous dictionary on either Chickasaw or the closely related Muskogean language, Choctaw. In addition, vowel and consonant length, vowel nasalization, and other important distinctions are given." The Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program uses both spelling systems in our language work. There is no "right" or "wrong" way to spell Chickasaw. Ours is an oral language, so ultimately it is up to each individual Chickasaw person to determine how they want to spell (and speak) their language.



Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program

The Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program was founded in 2007. We believe that our language was given to us by *Chihoowa / Aba' Binni'li'* (God), and it is our obligation to care for it: to learn it, speak it and teach it to our children. The Chickasaw language is a gift from the ancestors for all Chickasaw people. The job of the Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program, simply put, is to help people access that gift.



Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program Activities

Chikasha Academy Adult Immersion Program

- All second language learner staff
- learning Chickasaw language through full immersion
- 6 hours / day, 5 days / week
- Lead instructor – Ric Greenwood

Chipota Chikashshanompoli - Children Speaking Chickasaw Language Club

- Meet once a month in Ada and Kingston
 - Language learning through Total Physical Response activities and song
 - Compete at the annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair
- Youth Language Outreach Manager- Clovis Hamilton

East Central University Chickasaw classes

- four levels of Chickasaw
 - taught in the fall and spring
- instructors –Brandon White Eagle and fluent speaker JoAnn Ellis



Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program Activities

Community Language Classes

- meet once weekly in Oklahoma City, Purcell, Ada, Tishomingo, Sulphur and Ardmore
- taught by a fluent speaker or fluent speaker with facilitator
Language Program Manager - Teresa Workman

Chickasaw Language Committee

- meet once monthly/develop new Chickasaw words.
- committee of 25 fluent Chickasaw speakers
- serve in an advisory capacity for the Department of Chickasaw Language
Committee Coordinator – Teresa Workman

Family Culture and Language

- language learning immersion camps
- language learning in a fun and engaging environment, through the -medium of cultural activities and sports
Youth Language Outreach Manager- Clovis Hamilton



Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program Activities

Translation services

- available on request
 - any interested persons may request item or items to be translated by -
the Chickasaw Language Program
- Contact - fluent speaker Stanley Smith

Chickasaw language materials

- mailed upon request
 - packet of language information, CDs and DVDs
- Language Media Editor- Mark Francis

Language Media Program

- audio-video language documentation
- media production
- Language Media Editor – Mark Francis



Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program Activities

Rosetta Stone application processing, register online

www.ChickasawLanguage.com or www.Chickasaw.net/RosettaStone

Language Media Editor-Mark Francis

Employee Language Classes

- taught throughout the fiscal year

- topical classes designed to teach the language in a fun and engaging environment

- self study workbook,

https://anompa.chickasaw.net/anompa/files/Chickasaw_Basic_Self-Study_Program.pdf

Language Program Manager- Teresa Workman

Chickasaw Word of the Day

- found on the homepage, www.chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Language Portal

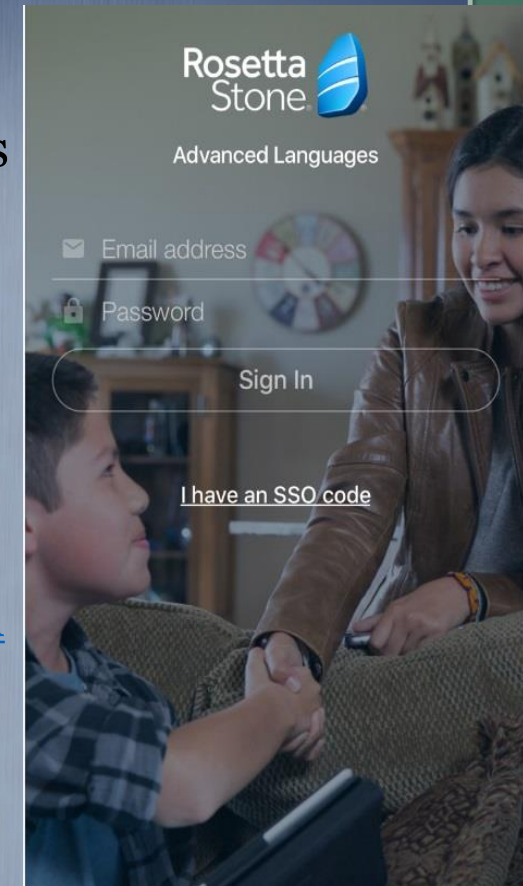
- found on the homepage, www.chickasaw.tv



The Rosetta Stone Chickasaw mobile app

The Rosetta Stone Chickasaw mobile app is now available free to Chickasaw citizens and immediate family members worldwide through the Rosetta Stone Advanced Languages app. To begin, follow these simple steps:

- Complete a license application at www.Chickasaw.net/RosettaStone or www.ChickasawLanguage.com.
- Once citizenship is verified, a welcome email will be sent to each user.
- Follow the instructions in the email to select your password.
- Sign in and begin using Rosetta Stone Chickasaw at www.ChickasawLanguage.com or <https://login.rosettastone.com/#/login>
- Once registered for the program, credentials may be used to log in the mobile app “Rosetta Stone Advanced Languages.”
 - This is only for the **advanced languages** app.



For Android devices:

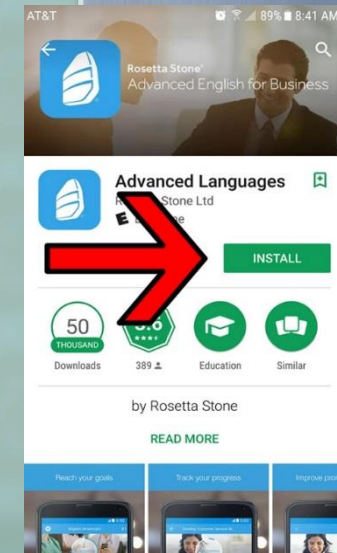
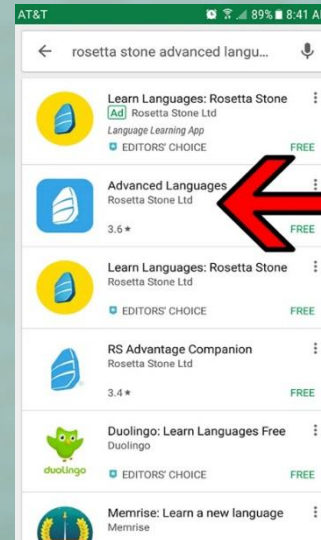
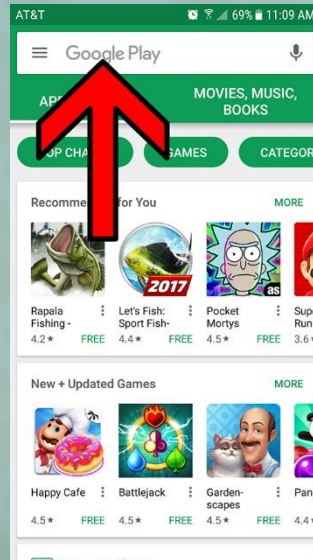
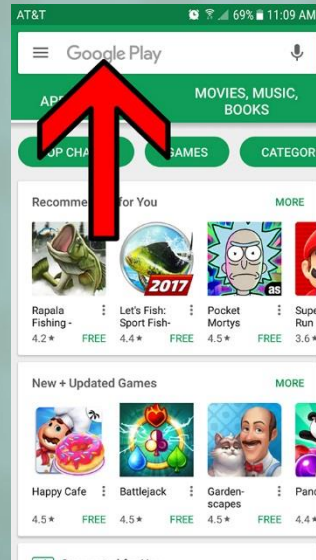
Go to your Google play store.

Select the search bar in the Google play store.

Type in "Advanced languages".

Click on "Advanced languages".

Click "Install" to download the app.

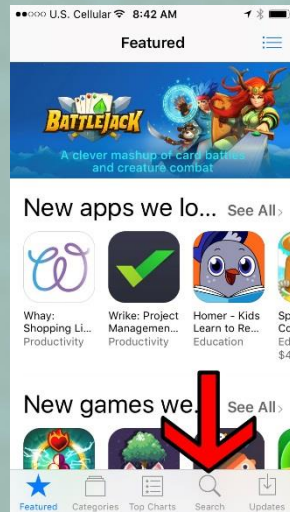


For Apple devices:

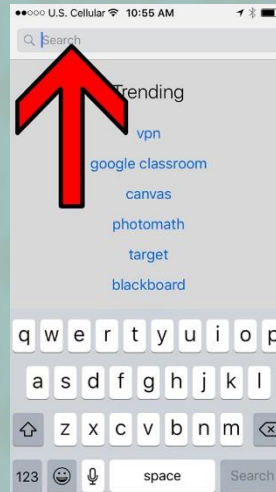
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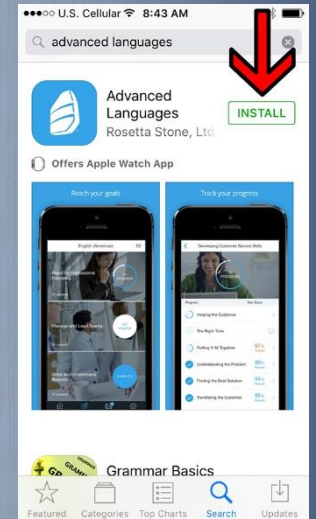
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Chokma'shki, yakkookay
Thank you

Contact Information:

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Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program

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