Phonokit — Inuktitut Syllabics (demo)

Architecture proof-of-concept — tables to be verified

Testing with a text

This comes from this website.

The Government of Nunavut, in collaboration with Microsoft, proudly announces the launch of Inuktitut text-to-speech functionality in Azure AI Speech services. Text-to-speech is now available in the Edge browser, using Read Aloud, and Microsoft Translator in Bing, and with more Microsoft applications to be added in 2025. This achievement, part of the Preservation and Promotion of Inuktut Through Technology Project, led by the Department of Culture and Heritage, reflects years of dedicated, community-driven efforts to make language more accessible and integrated into daily life across Nunavut.

Function

ᑲᕙᒪᖁᑦ ᓄᓇᕗᓐᒥ, ᓴᕙᖃᑎᒋᕝᓗᒋᑦ ᐅᑯᐊ Microsoftᑯᑦ, ᖁᕕᐊᓱᖕᓂᒃᑯᑦ ᑐᓴᖅᑎᑎᔪᑦ ᐊᐅᓚᕈᑖᒍᑦ ᐃᓄᒃᑎᑐᑦ ᑎᑎᕋᖅᓯᒪᔪᓄᓐ-ᐅᖃᖅᑕᐅᔪᑦ ᓂᐱᓕᐅᕈᑎᒃᑯᑦ ᐊᐅᓚᑉᑲᐃᓂᖓ ᓴᒪᓂ Azure AI Speech ᑭᕝᒐᖅᑑᑕᐃᓂ. ᑎᑎᕋᖅᓯᒪᔪᓄᓐ-ᐅᖃᖅᑕᐅᔪᑦ ᓂᐱᓕᐅᕈᑎᒃᑯᑦ ᐲᓇᕆᐊᓚᕿᔪᑦ ᐅᕙᓂ Edge ᕿᓂᖅᓯᐊᕕᐊᓂ, ᐊᑐᖅᓱᒋᑦ ᑕᐃᒍᐊᖅᓂᖅ ᓂᐱᖁᖅᑐᔪᒥᒃ, ᐅᓇᓗ Microsoft ᓄᒥᒃᑎᕈᑖ ᐅᕙᓂ Bingᒥ, ᐋᓚᓂᒃᓗ Microsoft ᐆᒃᑑᑕᐃᓂ ᐃᓚᓕᐅᑎᔪᒃᓴᑦ ᐅᕙᓂ 2025ᒥ. ᐅᓇ ᐃᓂᖅᑎᕐᓂᖓ, ᐃᓚᐅᔪᖅ ᑕᒪᖅᑕᐃᓕᓂᕐᒧᓐ ᐊᒃᓲᕈᑎᒋᓂᕐᒧᓐ ᐃᓄᒃᑐᑦ ᖃᕆᑕᐅᔭᒃᑯᑦ ᓴᕘᒃᓴᖅ, ᓯᕗᓕᖅᓱᖅᑕᐅᔪᖅ ᐅᑯᓇᖓ ᓴᕙᒃᕕᐊᓂᓐ ᐱᑐᖅᓯᓕᕿᔨᑦᑯᑦ, ᑕᑯᓇᖅᑐᖅ ᐊᒥᒐᐃᑐᓂ ᐅᑭᐅᓂ ᐊᒃᓲᕈᑎᑦ, ᓄᓇᓪᓛᓂᓐ-ᐱᓯᒪᔪᖅ ᐊᒃᓲᕈᑎᑦ ᐅᖃᐅᓯᖅ ᐲᓇᕆᐊᓚᖀᔮᖕᒐᓂ ᐃᓚᐅᔪᖅᓗ ᐅᕝᓗᓂ ᐃᓅᓂᕐᒧᓐ ᐃᓅᓯᖅ ᓄᓇᕗᓐᒥ.

Original

ᓄᓇᕗᑦ ᒐᕙᒪᒃᑯᑦ, ᐱᓕᕆᖃᑎᖃᖅᖢᑎᒃ Microsoft−ᑯᓐᓂ, ᐅᐱᒍᓱᒃᖢᑎᒃ ᑐᓴᖅᑎᑦᑎᕗᑦ ᓴᖅᑭᑕᐅᓂᖓᓂᒃ ᐃᓄᒃᑎᑐᑦ ᑎᑎᕋᐅᓯᑦ ᐅᖃᐅᓯᐅᔪᒃᓴᓂᒃ ᐊᐅᓚᓂᖕᒋᓐᓂᒃ AZure AI ᐅᖃᓇᐅᖅᓴᑎᑦᑎᔩᓂᒃ. ᑎᑎᕋᖃᑦᑕᐅᑎᓂᖅ ᐅᖃᓪᓚᖕᓂᐊᕐᑐᓂ ᒫᓐᓇ ᒪᓂᒪᓕᖅᐳᑦ Edge browser−ᑯᑦ, ᐊᑐᕐᑐᒍ Read Aloud, ᐊᒻᒪᓗ Microsoft Translator Bing−ᒥ, ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐃᓚᔭᐅᓗᐊᒃᑲᓐᓂᓛᖅᑐᑦ Microsoft−ᒧᑦ ᐊᑐᖅᑕᐅᕙᒃᑐᓂᒃ ᐃᓚᓕᐅᔾᔭᐅᔪᖃᓛᖅᖢᓂ 2025−ᒥ. ᑕᒪᓐᓇ ᐊᓂᒍᖅᑎᑕᐅᔪᖅ, ᐃᓚᒋᔭᐅᓪᓗᓂ ᔭᒐᑎᑦᑎᑦᑕᐃᓕᒪᓂᕐᒧᑦ ᐅᔾᔨᕐᓇᖅᓯᑎᑦᑎᓂᕐᒧᓪᓗ ᐃᓄᒃᑐᑦ ᐱᓕᕆᔾᔪᑕᐅᕙᒃᑐᓄᑦ ᐱᓕᕆᐊᖑᕙᒃᑐᑎᒍᑦ, ᑲᔪᓯᑎᑕᐅᓪᓗᓂ ᐃᓕᖅᑯᓯᓕᕆᔨᒃᑯᓐᓄᑦ, ᐊᒃᑐᐊᓂᖃᖅᐳᖅ ᐊᕐᕌᒍᒐᓴᕐᓄᑦ ᐱᓕᕆᐊᖃᓪᓚᕆᒍᒪᕙᖕᓂᖕᒋᓐᓄᑦ, ᓄᓇᓕᖕᓂ−ᑲᔪᓯᑎᑕᐅᔪᓄᑦ ᐱᓇᔪᒃᑕᐅᔪᓄᑦ ᑕᒪᓐᓇ ᐅᖃᐅᓯᖅ ᒪᓂᒪᓂᖅᓴᐅᖁᓪᓗᒍ ᐃᓚᓕᐅᔾᔭᐅᓯᒪᓗᓂᓗ ᖃᐅᑕᒫᑦ ᐃᓅᓯᕆᔭᐅᔪᓄᑦ ᓄᓇᕘᓕᒫᒥ.

Roman → Syllabics

Roman	Syllabics	Gloss	Function
inuk	ᐃᓄᒃ	person	`#syllabics("inuk")`
kaniq	ᑲᓂᖅ	frost	`#syllabics("kaniq")`
kuuk	ᑰᒃ	river	`#syllabics("kuuk")`
silami	ᓯᓚᒥ	outside	`#syllabics("silami")`
nunavut	ᓄᓇᕗᑦ	Nunavut	`#syllabics("nunavut")`

Dialect comparison: AI diphthong

In Nunavut, /ai/ is written as the A-form syllable + standalone ᐃ (i). In Nunavik, a dedicated fourth orientation encodes /ai/ as a single character.

Roman	Nunavut	Nunavik	Note
pai	ᐸᐃ	ᐯ	pa + standalone i vs. dedicated AI glyph
tai	ᑕᐃ	ᑌ	
qai	ᖃᐃ	ᕐᑫ	
ngai	ᖓᐃ	ᖕᒉ	

North Baffin: LH series (ɬ, voiceless lateral fricative)

Roman	Syllabics
lhi	ᖠ
lhu	ᖢ
lha	ᖤ
lhii	ᖡ

Syllabics → Roman

Syllabics input	Roman output	Gloss
ᐃᓄᒃ	inuk	person
ᓄᓇᕗᑦ	nunavut	Nunavut
ᓯᓚᒥ	silami	outside

Roman escape: `{...}` inside syllabics

Real Inuktitut documents mix syllabics with Roman text (brand names, loanwords, numbers). Wrap any Roman segment in `{...}` to pass it through untouched:

```
#syllabics("ilitaqsinikkut {Microsoft}-mit")
```

→ ᐃᓕᑕᖅᓯᓂᒃᑯᑦ Microsoft-ᒥᑦ

```
#syllabics("sivulliqpaamik {AI}-kut {2025}-mut")
```

→ ᓯᕗᓪᓕᖅᐹᒥᒃ AI-ᑯᑦ 2025-ᒧᑦ

Inline use with IPA

The word ᐃᓄᒃ [ˈinuk] means ‘person’ in Inuktitut.

The place name ᓄᓇᕗᑦ [nuˈna.vut] means ‘our land’.

Long vowels are represented by distinct precomposed characters: ᐄ iː, ᐆ uː, ᐋ aː.