# Phonology & standard orthography

/a/ a	/j/ y	/o/ o	/t͡ᠯ/ tl
/a:/ ā	/k/ c, qu <sup>1</sup>	/o:/ ō	/t͡s/ tz
/e/ e	/kw/ cu, uc³	/p/ p	/t͡ʃ/ ch
/e:/ ē	/1/ 1	/s/ c, z	/w/hu <sup>2</sup> ,uh <sup>3</sup>
/i/ i	/m/ m	/ʃ/ x	/?/ h
/i:/ ī	/n/ n	/t/ t	

- <sup>1</sup> Before front vowels: e, ē, i, ī
- <sup>2</sup> At beginning of syllables
- <sup>3</sup> At end of syllables

# Colonial orthography

- Vowel length is often unwritten; when written, long vowels have a macron, and short vowels a breve.
- ātl water, ĭhui thus; or atl, ihui
- tepetl > tepētl mountain or tēpetl someone's mat
- Long ō is often written u, but this is rare for short o; v for u is common word-initially.
- telpuchtli > tēlpōchtli young man
- vmpa > ōmpa yonder
- Vowels i, ī could also be written y or j and vice versa for semivowel y.
- yuh > iuh like, injc > in ic so that
- yiollo > īyōllo his, her heart
- Glottal stop h is usually only written between vowels; it can be indicated with a grave or a circumflex accent on the preceding yowel.
- amo > ahmō not, ehecatl > ehēcatl wind
- tlàtoāni > tlahtoāni king
- Clusters oa and ohua are often confused, as are ia and iya.
- cohuatl > cōātl snake, pia > piya hold
- hu, uh may be written o or u, v.
- iehoatl > yehhuātl he, she, it, eua > ēhua depart
- cua is written qua, coa; uc can be written cuh, cu, uhc.
- tecuhtli > tēuctli lord; quavitl > cuahuitl tree
- z can be spelt ç; tz can be spelt tç.
- çoquitl > zoquitl clay; tçonquiça > tzonquīza finish
- n after vowels could be written with a tilde over the preceding vowel.
- ipã > īpan on it;
- ma tlagcã > mā tlacuācān let them eat

#### Scribal abbreviations

- aº: ahmō
- q̃: qua(h)
- -co: -tzinco
- tote<sup>o</sup>, tte<sup>o</sup>, etc.:
- j°: Juan
- totēcuiyō
- q: que(h)
- q: qui(h)
- Cristo

# Sandhi

tz +ch>chch<sup>1</sup> nimitz+chiya > nimichiya I await you ch +y >chch¹ oquich+yōtl > oquichchōtl manliness mati, pret. mah know t +# >h n, m+hu>hu am+huālhuih > ahuālhuih y'all come +tl >ll pil+tli > pilli child pil+yōtl > pillōtl childhood +y >]] uh +m >mm cuauh+māitl > cuammāitl tree-branch on+mati > ommati she feels inside +m >mm n +p >mp non+pēhua > nompēhua I go forth nemi, pret. nen live m +# >n m +c >nc cem+cah > cencah very m +ch>nch quim+chīhua > quinchīhua I do them m +cu>ncu cem+cuemitl > cencuemitl one field m +n >nn am+nemi > annemi v'all live m +t >nt cem+tetl > centetl one stone am+tlapiva > antlapiva v'all keep stuff m +tl >ntl cem+tzontli > centzontli four hundred m +tz >ntz nāuh+pa > nāppa four times uh +p >pp ch +tz >tztz1 tōch+tzintli > tōtzintli dear rabbit huitz+yoh > huitzoh thorny tz +y >tztz<sup>1</sup> quim+xōxa > quixxōxa he hexes them  $n, m+x > xx^1$ nēch+xōxa > nēxxōxa he hexes me ch + $x > xx^1$  $x + y > xx^1$ mix+voh > mixxoh cloudy piya, pret. pix do  $+\# > x, z^2$ +V >yV ah+oc > ayoc no longer ez+yoh > ezzoh bloody  $z + y > zz^1$  $n, m+z > zz^1$ zan+cē > zazcē just one  $ch +z >zz^1$ amēch+zāloh > amēzzāloh he held y'all

<sup>1</sup> Rarely written as geminates.

<sup>2</sup> z if it follows a z, e.g. celiya, pret. celiz blossom.

# Derivational suffixes

- -cauh, pl. -cahuān Vb-er<sup>1</sup>
- -huia to use N, provide N
- -(l)iztli Vb-ing
- -lli something Vb-ed
- -ni, pl. -nimeh Vb-er<sup>2</sup>
- -qui, pl. -queh Vb-er<sup>2</sup>
- <sup>1</sup> Only possessed nouns
- <sup>2</sup> Only absolutive nouns

- -tia to provide
- with N, become N
- -yo inalienable possession
- -yoh thing full of
- N N
- -yōtl N-ness, N-ship
- ossessed nouns

# Example

- miqui die, miquiliztli death
- nonac my meat,
   nonacayo my flesh
- tlamati he knows things, tlamatini (he is a) scholar

# Possessive prefixes

Specific possessor sg. pl. tē- someone's

1 no- to- tla- something's

2 mo- amo3 ī- īn-/īm-

# Absolutive/possessive & number suffixes

- Absolutive suffixes
  sg. pl.
  C-tli -tin, -meh
  V-tl -(me)h
  l-li -tin
  -in -meh, -tin

  Possessive suffixes

  sg. pl.
  C-hui
  V-uh
  -huān
- Absolutive indicates non-possessed nouns.
- Possessive indicates nouns with a possessive prefix.
- Plurals in -h and -tin may have reduplication of the first syllable of the stem, whose vowel is lengthened, e.g. conētl child, pl. cōconeh; tōchtli rabbit, pl. tōtōchtin.
- Only animate nouns are inflected for number, e.g. cihuātl woman, cihuah women; tetl rock, rocks.

# Postpositions

-c(o) in, at by means of, through, with -ca -huān (together) with, moreover, and -īcampa behind -ihtic inside, within in front of, facing -īxpan -nāhuac next to, close to -pampa because of, concerning -pan on, in, at -(t)icpac on top of next to, adhering to -tech by, next to, below -tlan

-tzīntlan below, underneath

- Postpositions take a possessive prefix, e.g. notech next to me, Ihuan with it, or a noun, e.g. tlalticpac on the earth.
- N-Postposition has a general indefinite meaning; 1/īm-Postposition in N has a specific definite meaning, cf. tepan on stone(s), 1pan in tetl on the stone(s)
- Postpositions may take the reverential suffix -tzinco

# Verb prefixes

# Always in this order

- Imperative/optative marker
  mā if, let it be
  tlā if, let it be (please)
  māca[mō] mā + ahmō
  tlāca[mō] tlā + ahmō
- Negative marker ah not, unahmō not, no
- Antecessive prefixā already
- Subject pronoun sg. pl.

  1 ni- ti2 ti-<sup>1</sup> am-/an-<sup>1</sup>
  3 ø- ø
  <sup>1</sup> xi- if optative
- Definitive object pronoun sg. pl.
   1 nēch- tēch 2 mitz- amēch-
  - 3 c-/qui- quim-/im-
- Directional marker huāl hither on thither
- Reflexive pronoun

sg. pl.
1 no- to2 mo3 mo}-self, -selves

 Indefinite object pronoun tē- someone, people tla- something, stuff

# Verb classes

- Cl 1 Vbs in -VCCV Cl 2 Vbs in -VCV Cl 3 Vbs in -VV Cl 4 One-syllable Vbs in -a Exceptions
- Vbs in -Co, -tla, -ca: Cl 1
- Intransitive Vbs in -hua: Cl 1
- One-syllable Vbs in -i: Cl 1
- Transitive Vbs in -hua: Cl 2
- Vbs in -ya: Cl 1 or 2
- tōna be warm, pāca wash: Cl 1 not 2
- zōma become angry: Cl 4 not 2

#### Verbal bases

B 1 is the dictionary form. Other bases are derived as follows:

B 2

B 3

B 2 B 3 B 1 Cl 1 B 2 = B 1 B 3 = B 1 Cl 2 -V > -Ø B 3 = B 1 Cl 3 -V > -h -V\_1V\_2 > -V\_1: Cl 4 -h -V > -V:

# Example

	B 1	B 2	В 3	
Cl 1	chōca-	chōca-	chōca-	cry
Cl 2	yōli-	yōl-	yōli-	live
Cl 3	āltia-	āltih-	āltī-	bathe
Cl 4	cua-	cuah-	cuā-	eat

# Tense/Mood endings

Tense/Mood	В	sg.	pl.	
Present	1	-ø	-h	
Habitual	1	-ni¹	-nih <sup>1</sup>	
Imperfect	1	-ya <sup>2</sup>	-yah	
Preterite	2	-c <sup>3</sup>	-queh	
Pluperfect	2	-ca	-cah	
Admonitive	2	-h <sup>3</sup>	-(h)tin <sup>3</sup>	
Future	3	-Z	-zqueh	
Optative	3	-ø	-cān	
Conditional	3	-zquiya	-zquiyah	
<sup>1</sup> Preceding V lengthened				
<sup>2</sup> Preceding V lengthened except Cl 1				

<sup>3</sup> Only Cl 1, otherwise -ø

# Irregular verbs

o cā/ye be

sg. pl.
Present cah cateh
Imperfect yeya yeyah
Preterite catca catcah
Future yez yezqueh

a huītza go

sg. pl. Present huītz huītzeh Imperfect huītza huītzah

yā/huih come

sg. pl.
Present yauh huih
Imperfect yāya yāyah
Preterite yah yahqueh
Future yāz yāzqueh

huāllā/huālhuih come

Tradita, Traditati Collic				
	sg.	pl.		
Pres.	huāllauh	huālhuih		
Impf.	huālhuiya	huālhuiyah		
Pret.	huāllah	huāllahqueh		
Fut.	huāllaz	huāllazqueh		

# Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary verbs specify physical position of the main verb, condition under which the main verb takes place and mark aspect, and are made as follows:

- The main verb in the preterite stem
- Ligature morpheme -t(i)-
- The auxiliary verb, bearing tense and number

Verb Meaning Ind. Aux. be Vb-ing cah be depart Vb-ing ēhua rise huetzi fall Vb quickly come Vb-ing huītz come ihcac stand stand Vb-ing mani be, cover be Vb-ing go about Vb-ing nemi live (on)oc lie lie Vb-ing quīza emerge pass Vb-ing yauh<sup>1</sup> go be Vb-ing <sup>1</sup> ti+yauh > -tiuh

# Verbs of purposive motion

Purposive motion suffixes take the present stem

		Come	Go
Pres./Pret.	sg.	-co	-to
ries./riet.	pl.	-coh	-toh
Future	sg.	-quiuh	-tīuh
ruture	pl.	-quihuih	-tīhuih
Optative	sg.	-qui	-h, -ti
Optative	pl.	-auih	-tih, tin

#### Verb suffixes

• Causative -(1)tia cause to Vb

Passive
-(l)0
-(o)hua
-hualo
-hualo

Applicative
 -i(l)ia do Vb for someone

A reflexive prefix combined with either a causative or an applicative suffix creates a reverential verb

#### Example

niquittato I went to see it

#### Literature consulted

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