DOYON
FOUNDATION

2026 DENA SPELLING BEE

DENAAKK'E & BENHTI KOKHT'ANA KENAGA' PREPARATION JOURNAL

JOURNAL MADE BY ANDRIA MOSES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- About the Spelling Bee
- Denaakk'e Sounds
- Denaakk'e Word List
- Denaakk'e Practice Pages
- Lower Tanana Benhti Sounds
- Lower Tanana Benhti Word Lists
- Lower Tanana Benhti Practice Pages
- Notes
- Full Words List
- Word Search Activities
- Sources
- Acknowledgements

INTRODUCTION

The inaugural Dena Spelling Bee represents a historic milestone as the first competition of its kind. While this initiative was inspired by the established Yup'ik spelling bee, it has been uniquely tailored to celebrate our Dena languages.

This project was made possible through the vital support of the Doyon Foundation's partners and the Effie Kokrine Charter School community. We extend our sincere gratitude to the school for hosting the event and to the students who contributed significantly by curating word lists, selecting prizes, and helping shape the vision for this competition.

LANGUAGE AND DIALECT FOCUS

While our long-term goal is to include all languages from the Doyon Region, this inaugural event focuses on Denaakk'e (Koyukon) and Benhti Kokht'ana Kenaga' (Lower Tanana).

The competition will primarily utilize the Lower/Central dialect of Denaakk'e and the Minto dialect of Lower Tanana. Words from other dialects may be included; however, they will be clearly labeled to ensure clarity for all participants. We understand that participants from other communities may spell or pronounce these words differently, and we encourage students to explore this diversity; however, we will use the conventions in the published word list for the contest.

COMPETITION FORMAT & SCORING

To encourage learning and persistence, this spelling bee utilizes a cumulative points system rather than an elimination format. This allows every student to participate in all rounds regardless of individual errors. Accuracy will be overseen by a panel of invited speakers.

Scoring: If a student spells a word correctly, points are awarded based on the difficulty level:

- ***Common Words 1***: 1 point
- ***Common Words 2***: 5 points
- ***Challenge Words***: 10 points

Incorrect Responses: If a word is misspelled, the student will be provided with the correct spelling for educational purposes. No points will be awarded for that turn, but the student will remain in the competition for the subsequent rounds.

Determining the Winner: The participant with the highest total point count at the conclusion of the event will be the winner.

We hope that all students, whether participating in the contest or not, enjoy this language learning opportunity. *Naga' khwdokhwdeje'ikh*!

Sincerely,

The Doyon Foundation Language Revitalization Team

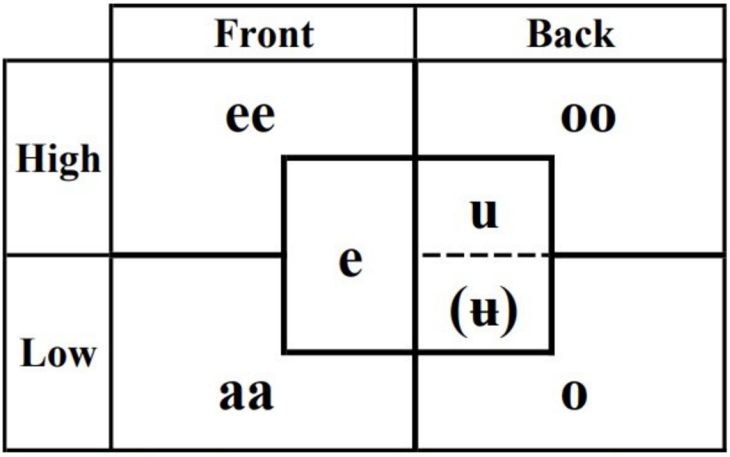
DENAAKK'E SOUNDS & LETTERS

Table vi. The Koyukon Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Lateral	Alveolar	Velar*	Back Velar	Glottal
Stops/Affricates							
plain	**b**	**d**	**dl**	**dz**	**g (j)**	**gg**	**'**
aspirated		**t**	**tl**	**ts**	**k (ch)**	**kk**	
glottalized		**t^2**	**tl'**	**ts'**	**k' (ch')**	**kk'**	
Continuants							
voiced	**m**	**n**	**l**	**z**	**y**	**gh**	
voiceless		**nh**	**ł**	**s**	**yh (sh)**	**h**	**ĥ**

*Upper dialect alveolo-palatal variants shown in parentheses.

Table vii. The Koyukon Vowel



Seventh Central/Lower vowel shown in parentheses

Images adapted from the Koyukon Athabaskan Dictionary, Jetté and Jones

Upper dialect Denaakk'e will be identified with this symbol: (U)

COMMON WORDS 1 - DENAAKK'E

Enaa baasee'. (e-naa baa-see') thank you	**tl'otl** (tl'-otl) moss
oho' (o-ho') yes	**deneege** (de-nee-ge) moose
Edzoo. (Ed-zoo) cold	**sode** (so-de) my older sister
gonaa' (gon-aa') help	**sedaadze'** (se-daa-ze') my little sister
Etlebaa'. (E-tle-baa') hot	**sooghe** (soo-ghe) my older brother
Edzegee'. (e-dze-gee') it's scary	**seketl'e** (se-ketl'-e) my younger brother
baabe (baa-be) food	**Haa'!** (haa') listen
Hek'edee'onh (he-k'e-dee'onh) It is sunny	**Lesdo** (les-do) I am sitting, I am staying

COMMON WORDS 1 - DENAAKK'E

Deenaalee (dee-naa-lee) Denali	**keloosge** (ke-loos-ge) cup
deenge (deen-ge) money	**sookaanee** (soo-kaa-nee) frybread
kkaakene (kkaa-ke-ne) mukluks/boots	**nedeenh** (ne-deenh) no
k'etsaan' (k'e-tsaan') grass	**Ogenee.** (o-ge-nee) I agree/of course.
geege (gee-ge) blueberries	**gg~~u~~h** (gg~~u~~h) rabbit

COMMON WORDS 2 - DENAAKK'E

denaatekk'eze (de-naa-te-kk'e-ze) bog cranberry	**menedaałts'eeye** (me-ne-daał-ts'ee-ye) snowdrift
nen'dzeghe' (nen'-dze-ghe') mushroom	**beghonghaałetenhe** (be-ghon-ghaał-e-ten-he) frostbite
kkaatsuł (kkaa-tsu-ł) moccasins	**kk'aanok'enaalyonh** (kk'-aan-ok'-enaal-yonh) full moon
tl'eegho baabe (tl'ee-gho baa-be) native food	**ukk'et** (u-kk'et) eddy
Tl'eeyegge hʉt'aane (Tl'ee-yegg-e hʉt'-aane) Native Indigenous People	**kk'aaghets'en'** (kk'-aaghe-ts'-en') backwards
ts'ododeetlaagge (ts'-o-do-dee-tlaa-gge) argumentative	**nedaaghe** (ne-daa-ghe) where
yo yekkoyh (yo ye-kkoyh) northern lights	**net'eekk'ee** (ne-t'ee-kk'-ee) two
ghaaneegenh (ghaa-nee-genh) guest	**kk'eeyh** (kk'-ee-yh) birchtree

COMMON WORDS 2 - DENAAKK'E

dleł tleeloyet (dle-ł-tlee-lo-yet) mountain summit	**hedeets'eyh** (he-dee-ts'-eyh) it's windy
tl'aaghedekkone (tl'-aa-ghe-dek-kon-e) sewing needle	**hedeełts'eyaa** (he-deeł-ts'-e-yaa) it's not windy
tl'enh benee (tl'enh ben-ee) stinkweed	**ekee** (e-kee) yuck, ugh, it's wet
sodegets'eeyh (so-de-ge-ts'-eeyh) I am happy	**hʉyh** (hʉ-yh) winter
koghozene (ko-gho-zen-e) weasel	**hʉyoze** (hʉ-yo-zee) a little bit small
noghʉy tl'aakk (no-ghʉ-y-tl'-aakk) nagoonberry	**Dont'aanh?** (Dont'-aanh) What are you doing?
dets'en tl'aakk (dets'en-tl'-aakk) raspberry	**Debaa gonenh?** (De-baa go-nenh) Who is this?

CHALLENGE WORDS - DENAAKK'E

nedaaghe detlekts'en'
(ne-daa-ghe de-tle-kts'-en')
everywhere

dodetl'edzee ch'ejege'
(do-de-tl'-edz-ee-ch'-e-je-ge')
chokecherry (U)

k'ehuk'ots'e kk'o'eedoy
(k'-eh-uk'-ots'-e-kk'-o'-ee-doy)
lead dog

seyełneyoo
(se-yeł-ne-yoo)
my relatives

Jenee neenł'aanee'?
(je-nee neen-ł'aa-nee')
What do you see? (U)

bedots'ʉhdel'eeghee
(be-dots'-ʉh-del'-ee-ghee)
books/magazines

ggaał lodelyaaye
(ggaał-lo-del-yaa-ye)
bluebell

CHALLENGE WORDS - DENAAKK'E

nonaatdlode
(no-naat-dlo-de)
fish ice cream

edeghoyeneegheleedeneek
(ed-egh-oye-nee-ghelee-den-eek)
take care of yourself

hedohʉdege'eeh
(he-do-hʉ-de-ge'-eeh)
I am learning

sekʉghlaado
(se-kʉgh-laa-do)
cooking skillet

kk'onaat'oghe
(kk'-on-aat'-o-ghe)
bird (generic)

k'ets'ehʉltoone
(k'-ets'-e-hʉl-too-ne)
black-capped chickadee

ts'endzek denh
(ts'-endz-ek denh)
bedtime

CHALLENGE WORDS - DENAAKK'E

bedze'egh hoolaane
(be-dze'-egh hoo-laa-ne)
hooded dress, kuspuk

bet'seedaakk'oge
(be-ts'ee-daa-kk'o-ge)
needle bag

neełghʉdaadleghʉnh denh
(neeł-ghʉ-daa-dle-ghʉnh denh)
joint (anatomical or other)

tletlkkʉghuyh
(tle-tl-kkʉ-ghuyh)
mallard duck

k'enaagheneyhtl denh
(k'-en-aa-ghen-eyh-tl denh)
kitchen

et'eghldee'ee
(et'-eghl-dee'-ee)
new

PRACTICE PAGE

PRACTICE PAGE

PRACTICE PAGE

LOWER TANANA BENHTI SOUNDS & LETTERS

Consonant inventory by position of articulation:

b	d	dl	ddh	dz	dr	j	g	’
	t	tl	tth	ts	tr	ch	k	
	t’	tl’	tth’	ts’	tr’	ch’	k’	
		ł	th	s	sr	sh	x	h
		l	dh	z	zr		gh	
m	n					y		
	nh					yh		

Vowels:

	i			u				ụ
		e	w				ẹ	
	a			o		ạ		

Images found in Lower Tanana Athabaskan Dictionary by James Kari

Sample from Denaakk’e for an articulation table:

Table vi. The Koyukon Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Lateral	Alveolar	Velar*	Back Velar	Glottal
Stops/Affricates							
plain	**b**	**d**	**dl**	**dz**	**g (j)**	**gg**	**’**
aspirated		**t**	**tl**	**ts**	**k (ch)**	**kk**	
glottalized		**t’**	**tl’**	**ts’**	**k’ (ch’)**	**kk’**	
Continuants							
voiced	**m**	**n**	**l**	**z**	**y**	**gh**	
voiceless		**nh**	**ł**	**s**	**yh (sh)**	**h**	**ĥ**

*Upper dialect alveolo-palatal variants shown in parentheses.

COMMON WORDS 1 - LOWER TANANA BENHTI

kwyh te (kwyh-te) winter	**khwyo** (khw-yo) wisdom
deya (de-ya) what	**nechuyh** (ne-chuyh) rosehips
tokoget (to-ko-get) tundra	**łi goya** (łi-go-ya) puppy
dinji (din-ji) money	**gwkh** (gw-kh) snowshoe hare
kenaga' (ke-na-ga') language	**deltsedza** (del-tse-dza) mouse
nuni (nu-ni) porcupine	**tudrok** (tu-drok) fish wheel
kheneth (khe-neth) raft	**delakhji** (de-lakh-ji) towel
sronot (sro-not) spring	**ik'wt** (i-k'wt) go ahead

COMMON WORDS 1 - LOWER TANANA BENHTI

ts'en' (ts'-en') love	**sresr** (sre-sr) black bear
ttheleyh (tthe-leyh) ground squirrel	**tso'** (tso') beaver
yodee (yo-dee) eagle (any kind)	**bedziyh** (Be-dziyh) caribou
deyh (de-yh) spruce grouse	**gelis** (ge-lis) birch seeds
tsabaya (tsa-ba-ya) whitefish (anykind)	**guth** (gu-th) rhubarb
ts'eba (ts'e-ba) tree	**tthu** (tth-u) milk
Yegetna (ye-get-na) Lower 48 States	**hwndenh** (hwn-denh) perhaps

COMMON WORDS 2 - LOWER TANANA BENHTI

tth'enh beni (tth'-enh be-ni) sage	**nuniya** (nu-ni-ya) animal
titwkhna (ti-twkh-na) orphan	**yega'** (ye-ga') nearby
nen'dzegha' (nen'-dze-gha') mushroom	**k'unat'eyi** (k'u-na-t'e-yi) bandana
yudełyuze (yu-dełł-yuze) marmot	**khełts'en'** (khełł-ts'-en') evening
khwk'ila' (khw-k'i-la') revenge	**tenathdeghwdli** (te-nath-de-ghw-dli) fallen tree
ch'eghasr tsiga' (ch'e-gha-sr-tsi-ga') egg yolk	**ts'edzegaguh** (ts'e-dze-ga-guh) chickadee
khoch'e'oyhde (kho-ch'e'-oyh-de) sunrise	**ch'etthidrodro** (ch'e-tthi-dro-dro) hawk owl
yekhdolwga' (yekh-do-lw-ga') uvula	**dradolzudi** (dra-dol-zu-di) kindling

COMMON WORDS 2 - LOWER TANANA BENHTI

khwdenyaghi (khw-den-ya-ghi) vegetation	**khedenitoni** (khe-de-ni-to-ni) ladder
deł (deł) blood	**dinot** (di-not) meanwhile
nonuthdeyilok (no-nuth-de-yil-ok) snowblindness	**k'ode'onh** (k'o-de'-onh) yesterday
ałto' (ał-to') relatives/cousins	**nen't'okh** (nen'-t'okh) underground cellar/pit
ts'atsiyi (ts'a-tsi-yi) iron	**k'o'k'adee** (k'o'-k'a-di) arrowhead
tetth zro' (te-tth zro') moon	**tthatthił** (ttha-tthił) hatchet axe
kheł (kheł) darkness	**be'uzra'** (be'-u-zra') his/her name

CHALLENGE WORDS - LOWER TANANA BENHTI

khedoch'ekhwyhdol'ikhde
(khe-do-ch'e-khwyh-dol-'ikh-de)
school

ch'etth'ena't'on'tr'eł'ani
(ch'e-tth'e-na'-t'on'-tr'eł-'ani)
fireweed

bek'et dranh dodetili
(be-k'et dra-nh do-de-tili)
calendar

kha'eł ch'eghonolyali
(kha'-eł ch'e-gho-nol-ya-li)
tape measure

be'ał notr'edeyighi
(be'ał no-tr'e-de-yi-ghi)
medicine

khench'eneltl'u'l
(khen-ch'e-nelt-l'u'l)
beading needle

neghw nighwsniyh
(ne-ghw ni-ghws-niyh)
let me help you

CHALLENGE WORDS - LOWER TANANA BENHTI

nagha tr'edlyoyi
(na-gha tr'edl-yoyi)
googles/eyeglasses

nen' yi kwnwkh
(nen' yi kw-nwkh)
underground house

be'ał khełoch'eghelyaghi
(be'ał khe-ło-ch'e-ghel-ya-ghi)
broom

beyit tr'ekheyayi
(be-yit tr'e-khe-yayi)
telephone

sejobelado
(se-jo-be-la-do)
frying pan

nonathdlodi
(no-nath-dlo-di)
blueberries in grease

denegi ch'etthi' todheł
(de-ni-gi ch'e-tthi' to-dheł)
Moosehead soup

CHALLENGE WORDS - LOWER TANANA BENHTI

tthich'uzra khulani
(tthi-ch'u-zra khu-lani)
parka

beyit kheyedayi
(be-yit khe-yedayi)
radio

gobaghi
(go-ba-ghi)
paper

kheghoch'udeghoghił'anenh
(khe-gha-ch'u-de-gho-ghi-ł'a-nenh)
policeman/game warden

chenh tu'
(chenh tu')
swamp

sekhuthdenek
(se-khuth-de-nek)
completely alone

PRACTICE PAGE

PRACTICE PAGE

PRACTICE PAGE

NOTES PAGE

NOTES PAGE

FULL WORD LIST

ałto’
baabe
be’ał khełoch’eghelyaghi
be’ał notr’edeyighi
be’uzra’
bedots’ʉhdel’eeghee
bedze’egh hoolaane
bedziyh
beghonghaałetenhe
bek’et dranh dodetili
bet’seedaakk’oge
beyit kheyedayi
beyit tr’ekheyayi
ch’eghasr tsiga’
ch’etth’ena’t’on’ tr’eł’ani
ch’etthidrodro
chenh tu’
Debaa gonenh?
Deenaalee
deł
delakhji
deltsedza
denaatekk’eze
deenge
deneege
denegi ch’etthi’ todheł
dets’en tl’aakk
deya
deyh
dinji
dinot
dleł tleeloyet
dodetl’edzee ch’ejege’
Don’taanh?
dradolzudi
edeghoyeneegheleedeneek
Edzegee’.
Edzoo.
ekee
Enaa baasee’.
et’eghldee’ee
Etlebaa’.
geege
gelis
ggaał lodelyaaye
ggʉh
ghaaneegenh
gobaghi
gonaa’
guth
gwkh
Haa’!
hedeełts’eyaa
hedeets’eyh
Hek’edee’onh
hʉyh
hʉyoze
hwndenh
ik’wt
Jenee neenł’aanee’?
k’ehuk’ots’e kk’o’eedoy
k’enaagheneyhtl denh
k’ets’e lohul’aane
k’ets’ehʉltoone
kl’o’k’adee
k’ode’onh
k’unat’eyi

FULL WORD LIST

keloosge
kenaga’
k’etsaan’
kha’eł ch’eghonolyali
khedenitoni
khedoch’ekhwyhdol’ikhde
kheghoch’udeghoghił’anenh
kheł
khełts’en’
khench’eneltl’u’l
kheneth
khoch’e’oyhde
khwdenyaghi
khwk’ila’
khwyo
kk’aaghets’en’
kk’aanok’enaalyonh
kk’eyh
kk’onaat’oghe
kkaakene
kkaatsuł
koghozene
kwyh te
Lesdo
łi goya
menedaałts’eeye
naghatr’edlyoyi
nechuyh
nedaaghe
nedaaghe detlekts’en’
nedeenh
neełghʉdaadleghʉnh denh
neghw nighwsniyh
nen’ yi kwnwkh
nen’dzeghe’
nen’t’okh
net’eekk’ee
noghʉy tl’aakk
nonaatdlode
nonathdlodi
nonuthdeyilok
nuni
nuniya
Ogenee.
oho’
sedaadze’
sejobelado
seketl’e
sekhuthdenek
sekʉghlaado
seyetneyoo
sode
sooghe
sookaanee
sresr
sronot
tenathdeghwdli
tetth zro’
titwkhna
tl’aaghedekkone
tl’eegho baabe
Tl’eeyegee hʉt’aane
tl’enh benee
tl’otl
tletlkkughuyh
tokoget
ts’atsiyi
ts’eba
ts’edzegaguh
ts’en’
ts’endzek denh
ts’ododeetlaagge
tsabaya
tso’
tth’enh beni
tthatthił
ttheleyh
tthich’uzra khulani
tthu
tudrok
ukk’et
yega’
Yegetna
yekhdolwga’
Yodee
Yo yekkoyh
Yudełyuze

Lower Tanana Benhti - 1

A	F	H	T	D	R	Z	M	G	Y	I	A	Q	H	R	Y	W	E
N	T	Z	E	O	I	Y	D	W	S	F	C	C	N	I	E	R	Z
S	T	B	D	K	K	N	S	K	E	Y	T	Y	E	T	G	Z	I
Z	S	K	E	W	Q	A	J	H	U	X	T	T	C	O	E	N	K
J	E	H	L	Y	B	F	D	I	Z	T	H	S	H	K	T	I	H
V	B	W	T	H	S	E	M	I	R	T	E	A	U	O	N	T	E
B	A	Y	S	T	R	C	D	C	A	S	L	B	Y	G	A	U	N
K	S	O	E	E	O	V	V	Z	I	O	E	A	H	E	G	D	E
D	V	R	D	O	N	E	X	G	I	C	Y	Y	K	T	J	R	T
E	O	V	Z	D	O	W	A	L	I	Y	H	A	G	G	H	O	H
W	V	I	A	S	T	H	I	B	K	F	H	U	Z	Z	Q	K	J
S	R	E	S	R	H	Y	B	J	X	K	G	E	L	I	S	W	V

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words above are missing the glottals. Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

BEDZIYH	*caribou*	SRESR	*black bear*
DELTSEDZA	*mouse*	SRONOT	*spring*
DINJI	*money*	TOK'ADI	*bald eagle*
GELIS	*birch seeds*	TOKOGET	*tundra*
GWKH	*snowshoe hare*	TSABAYA	*whitefish (anykind)*
KHENETH	*raft*	TS'EBA	*spruce tree*
KHWYO	*wisdom*	TSO'	*beaver*
KWYH TE	*winter*	TTHELEYH	*ground squirrel*
NECHUYH	*rosehips*	TUDROK	*fish wheel*
SE'UZRA'	*my name*	YEGETNA	*Lower 48 States*

Created using the Word Search Generator on Super Teacher Worksheets (www.superteacherworksheets.com)

Common Words, 1 - Denaakk'e

E	O	C	P	T	R	T	L	O	T	L	M	N	S	B	S	M	E
D	K	E	P	T	H	S	Y	E	D	Z	E	G	E	E	O	G	T
Z	L	E	N	A	X	A	O	G	F	K	Z	E	D	G	D	D	L
O	O	S	L	A	U	F	A	O	K	X	B	G	A	O	A	E	E
O	G	B	Z	O	A	K	S	S	K	K	Q	W	A	N	A	E	B
G	E	A	E	U	O	B	E	O	V	A	A	B	Z	N	W	N	A
Q	N	A	V	V	O	S	A	T	O	P	A	A	E	A	R	G	A
A	E	B	J	C	L	U	G	A	S	G	G	N	K	A	G	E	F
M	E	E	I	X	V	L	V	E	S	A	H	O	E	E	V	R	D
E	D	E	N	E	E	G	E	R	K	E	A	A	H	E	N	S	M
Z	U	D	R	R	S	E	K	E	T	L	E	N	A	O	E	E	Y
O	O	E	O	C	Z	Q	T	Y	K	T	I	E	T	U	C	H	J

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words above are missing the glottals. Words are hidden ➔ , ➔ , and ➔ .

BAABE	*food*
DEENGE	*money*
DENEEGE	*moose*
EDZEGEE'	*scary*
EDZOO	*cold*
ENAA BAASEE'	*thank you*
ETLEBAA'	*hot*
GONNAA'	*help*
HAA'	*listen*
KELOOSGE	*cup*
KKAAKENE	*mukluks/boots*
K'ETSAAN	*grass*
OGENEE	*I agree/of course*
OHO'	*yes*
SEDAAZE	*little sister*
SEKETL'E	*younger brother*
SODAA	*older sister older*
SOOGHAA	*brother*
SOOKAANEE	*frybread*
TL'OTL	*moss*

Word Search Generator on Super Teacher Worksheets (www.superteacherworksheets.com)

Common Words 2 - Benhti

K	O	T	P	C	V	K	T	I	T	W	K	H	N	A	U	N	Z
H	G	V	G	N	W	F	P	P	T	K	Y	E	G	A	Z	U	U
E	B	L	U	P	N	X	N	V	B	E	O	H	B	L	T	N	L
D	E	A	C	G	S	L	Y	N	N	L	T	D	Z	E	C	I	K
E	U	H	K	U	N	A	T	E	Y	I	Y	T	E	D	L	Y	O
N	Z	D	X	O	D	I	N	O	T	I	D	L	H	O	L	A	K
I	R	L	K	H	W	D	E	N	Y	A	G	H	I	Z	N	T	A
T	A	E	R	L	E	N	E	N	D	Z	E	G	H	A	R	H	D
O	Y	P	U	A	O	H	L	J	C	C	F	V	F	I	W	O	E
N	V	C	N	O	N	U	T	H	D	E	Y	I	L	O	K	H	E
I	N	P	X	I	T	M	E	D	J	C	Y	C	L	C	N	Y	M
V	M	M	B	A	N	F	D	R	A	D	O	L	Z	U	D	I	B

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words above are missing glottals. Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

BE'UZRA'	*his/her name*
DINOT	*meanwhile*
DRADOLZUDI	*kindling*
KHEDENITONI	*ladder*
KHWDENYAGHI	*vegetation*
K'ODE'ONH	*yesterday*
K'O'K'ADEE	*arrowhead*
K'UNAT'EYI	*bandana*
NEN'DZEGHA'	mushroom
NONUTHDEYILOK	*snowblindness*
NUNIYA	*animal*
TETTH ZRO'	*moon*
TITWKHNA	*orphan*
YEGA'	*nearby*

Created using the Word Search Generator on Super Teacher Worksheets (www.superteacherworksheets.com)

Common Words 2 - Denaakk'e

I	C	T	B	X	A	Y	O	Y	E	K	K	O	Y	H	X	H	O
D	G	H	K	T	L	E	N	H	B	E	N	E	E	I	G	M	O
K	K	A	A	N	O	K	E	N	A	A	L	Y	O	N	H	U	J
X	D	T	G	V	T	P	U	G	E	V	F	O	B	O	G	Q	R
N	O	M	T	L	A	A	G	H	E	D	E	K	K	O	N	E	V
H	N	H	E	D	E	E	T	S	E	Y	H	V	G	K	Z	M	R
M	T	D	E	N	A	A	T	E	K	K	E	Z	E	A	I	T	L
W	A	N	X	K	O	G	H	O	Z	E	N	E	V	H	K	U	N
P	A	G	H	A	A	N	E	E	G	E	N	H	G	Z	M	E	W
H	N	J	N	E	N	D	Z	E	G	H	E	F	X	L	C	Q	Z
G	H	R	Q	U	K	S	N	E	T	E	E	K	K	E	E	S	G
B	J	F	G	E	K	E	E	C	M	B	E	Z	G	T	R	J	L

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words above are missing glottals.
Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

DENAATEKK'EZE	*bog cranberry*	KOGHOZENE	*weasel*
DONT'AANH	*What are you doing?*	NEN'DZEGHE	*mushroom*
EKEE	*yuck, it's wet*	NET'EEKK'EE	*two*
GHAANEEGENH	*guest*	TL'AAGHEDEKKONE	*sewing needle*
HEDEETS'EYH	*it's windy*	TL'ENH BENEE	*stinkweed*
KK'AANOK'ENAALYONH	*full moon*	YO YEKKOYH	*northern lights*

Created using the Word Search Generator on Super Teacher Worksheets (www.superteacherworksheets.com)

Challenge Words - Benhti

P	C	N	K	H	E	N	C	H	E	N	E	L	T	L	U	L	V
N	O	N	A	T	H	D	L	O	D	I	Q	J	I	D	A	C	T
D	D	M	S	E	K	H	U	T	H	D	E	N	E	K	B	Q	S
N	N	A	G	H	A	T	R	E	D	L	Y	O	Y	I	E	C	U
H	P	P	T	B	H	F	U	Y	S	Y	C	H	L	X	F	O	P
X	N	E	G	H	W	N	I	G	H	W	S	N	I	Y	H	X	F
C	I	M	Z	J	O	X	T	C	J	G	S	J	Q	P	Z	W	H
U	R	B	E	Y	I	T	T	R	E	K	H	E	Y	A	Y	I	M
U	S	E	J	O	B	E	L	A	D	O	M	N	G	I	T	X	H
U	H	H	Z	G	C	Q	H	N	H	V	U	C	Q	E	E	N	E
S	H	V	B	C	H	E	N	H	T	U	M	E	I	N	D	P	H
N	P	Z	Y	B	E	C	G	O	B	A	G	H	I	M	C	M	Z

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words above are missing the glottal.
Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

BEYIT T'REKHEYAYI	*telephone*
CHENH TU'	*swamp*
GOBAGHI	*paper*
KHENCH'ENELTL'U'L	*beading needle*
NAGHATR'EDLYOYI	*goggles/eyeglasses*
NEGHW NIGHWSNIYH	*let me help you*
NONATHDLODI	*blueberries in grease*
SEJOBELADO	*frying pan*
SEKHUTHDENEK	*completely alone*

Created using the Word Search Generator on Super Teacher Worksheets (www.superteacherworksheets.com)

Challenge Words - Denaakk'e

G	D	S	E	Y	E	T	N	E	Y	O	O	Q	D	D	A	P	Z
I	K	D	A	J	X	T	K	R	U	U	M	Z	E	T	F	Y	S
K	E	H	U	K	O	T	S	E	K	K	O	E	E	D	O	Y	N
W	M	T	P	U	N	P	F	X	A	V	E	J	X	Z	H	S	W
K	K	O	N	A	A	T	O	G	H	E	V	B	L	T	K	D	I
H	U	G	B	E	T	S	E	E	D	A	A	K	K	O	G	E	J
N	E	D	A	A	G	H	E	D	E	T	L	E	K	T	S	E	N
O	O	H	B	T	S	E	N	D	Z	E	K	D	E	N	H	H	A
K	E	N	A	A	G	H	E	N	E	Y	H	T	L	D	E	N	H
I	Y	A	K	X	D	A	L	Z	I	U	B	O	J	W	V	M	T
O	H	I	D	E	Q	G	W	P	J	J	Q	V	I	J	P	P	V
D	O	D	E	T	L	E	D	Z	E	E	C	H	E	J	E	G	E

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words above are missing the glottals. Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

BETS'EEDAAKKOGE	*needle bag*
DODETL'EDZEE CH'EJEGE'	*chokecherry*
K'EHUK'OTS'E KK'O'EEDOY	*lead dog*
K'ENAAGHENEYHTL DENH	*kitchen*
KK'ONAAT'OGHE	*bird (generic)*
NEDAAGHE DETLEKTS'EN'	*everywhere*
SEYETNEYOO	*my relative*
TS'ENDZEK DENH	*bedtime*

Created using the Word Search Generator on Super Teacher Worksheets (www.superteacherworksheets.com)

CREATE YOUR OWN WORDFIND!

WORKS CITED

Doyon Languages Online. Doyon Foundation and 7000 Languages, Transparent Language, https://education.transparent.com/doyon/game/ng/#/login.

Jetté, Jules, and Eliza Jones. Koyukon Athabaskan Dictionary. Edited by James Kari, Alaska Native Language Center, 2000, https://uafanlc.alaska.edu/Online/KO898JJ2000/KoyukonAthabaskanDictionary-scanned.pdf.

Jones, Eliza. Dinaakkanaaga Ts'inh Huyoza: Junior Dictionary for Central Koyukon Athabaskan. Alaska Native Language Center, 1992, bit.ly/KoyukonJuniorDictionary.

Lower Tanana Dene Dictionary. With James M. Kari, Alaska Native Language Center, 2024.

Koyukon Plant Database. Alaska Native Knowledge Network, 2016, bit.ly/KoyukonPlants.

Krauss, Michael E. Minto-Nenana Athabaskan Noun Dictionary. Alaska Native Language Center, 1974, https://uafanlc.alaska.edu/Online/TNMN961K1974a/TNMN961K1974a_Minto_dictionaryf.1.pdf.

Tuttle, Siri G. Benhti Kokht'ana Kenaga' (Minto Lower Tanana Athabascan Pocket Dictionary). Alaska Native Language Archive, 2015, https://www.uaf.edu/anla/record.php?identifier=TN990T2015a.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Doyon Foundation extends its deepest gratitude to the contributors and partners whose dedication and expertise make this event possible. This practice book is another step forward in our collective mission to sustain our Native languages for generations to come.

Key Contributors

We would like to recognize the following individuals for their invaluable contributions to this project:

- **Andria Moses:** For her leadership in compiling this preparation journal and her diligent efforts in organizing the competition details.
- **Dewey Kk'ołeyo Hoffman**: For his meticulous review of the Denaakk'e (Koyukon) word lists.
- **David Engles**: For his expert guidance in editing and reviewing the Benhti Kokht'ana Kenaga' (Lower Tanana) word lists.
- **Susan K'etsoo Paskvan:** For providing words and guidance in creating the Denaakk'e content.

We also thank the many community members and speakers who provided their time and wisdom to ensure the accuracy and cultural integrity of this event.

Funding and Support

This Dena Spelling Bee journal was made possible through the generous support of the **U.S. Department of Education, Alaska Native Education Program.** The project is funded under award number **S356A220042**, as part of the **Doyon Languages Education: DLO In The Classroom** initiative. We are grateful for this partnership, which allows us to continue our work in language revitalization and educational innovation.

DOYON
FOUNDATION

2026 DENA SPELLING BEE