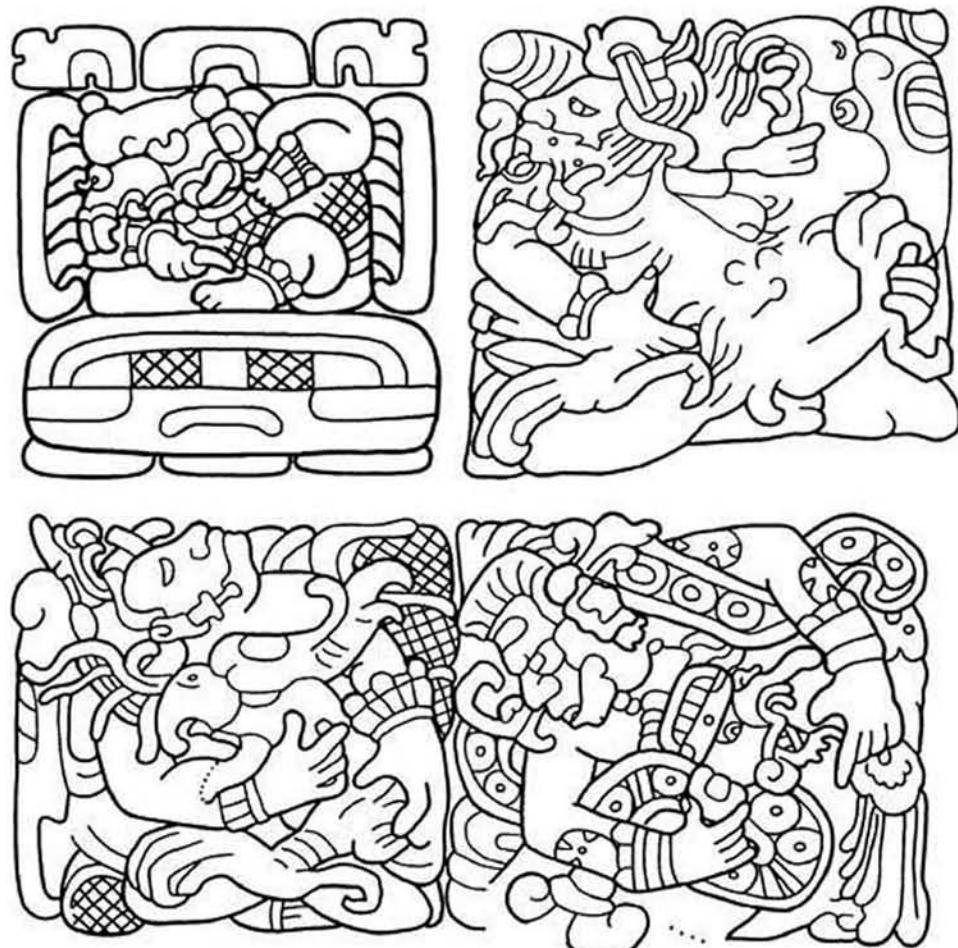


Hieroglyphic Decipherment Guide



compiled & revised by Inga E. Calvin
2012

Table of Contents

Chronological Periods	1
Classic Period Maya Sites	2
Classic Period & Modern Maya Languages Map	3
Evolution of Mayan Languages Dendrogram	4
Reading Order	6
Phonetic Syllables	7
 Numbers	13
Dates — Sacred Almanac of 260 Days	14
Dates — Solar Calendar of 365 Days	15
Dates — Long Count	16
Dates — Supplementary Series: Lords of the Night	17
Dates — Supplementary Series: Lunar Series	18
Correlation of Maya & Christian Dates	19
 Verbs — Inflectional Endings	21
Verbs — Accession	22
Verbs — Birth & Death	24
Verbs — Dedication	25
Verbs — Warfare	26
Verbs — Motion	28
Verbs	29
Dates — Temporal Indicators	31
Dates — Distance Numbers	32
 Ergative Pronouns	33
Prepositions	34
Prepositions & Adverbs	35
Nouns — Structures	36
Nouns — Monuments	37
Nouns — Places	38
Nouns — Warfare	39
Nouns	40
Nouns — Animals	43
 Titles	47
Titles — Relationships	51
Titles — Emblem Glyphs	53
Directions	56
Colors	57
Deities 1	58

Pottery — Vessel Typology	63
Presentation	64
Surface Treatment.....	66
Pottery Contents.....	68
Glossary	69
Index	81

With grateful thanks to Michael Coe, Nikolai Grube, Stephen Houston, Simon Martin, Peter Mathews, John F. Montgomery, Linda Schele, David Stuart, Karl Taube, Mark Van Stone and Marc Zender for the generous use of their illustrations in this not-for-profit study guide. Thanks also to Nick Hopkins for his critical comments.

Persons using this guide should be aware that the field of Maya hieroglyphic studies is ongoing and decipherments are subject to revision and intense debate regarding spelling, grammar, tense aspect or meaning. Any mistakes are the responsibility of the compiler, Inga E. Calvin.

ANY USE OF THIS GUIDE FOR SALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Ergative Pronouns

ni-

"my"



'a-

"your"



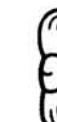
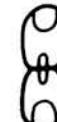
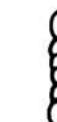
ka-

"our" or "we"



'u-

"his/her/its" or
"he/she/it"



pre-vocalic 'u-

"his/her/its" or
"he/she/it"



ya-

ya-

ye-

ye-

ye-

ye-



yi-

yi-

yo-

yo-

yo-

yu-

Prepositions

HA'I

"this"



ha-'i



ha-'i



ha-[i]

HA'OB

"those"



ha-o-ba



ha-o-bo

HII'

"that"



hi-na

ICHIIL

"in", "within" or "inside"



'i-chi-la

OHL

"center of" or "heart"



OHL



yo-OL-la

TAHN

"in front of"



TAHN-na

TA

"in, at, on, to, by, with, for, as"



TI

"in, at, on, to, by, with, for, as"



WAJI

"there"



wa-'i

Prepositions & Adverbs

CHA'
"again"

oo



cha'

MA'
"not"



ma-'a

MACHAJ
"no"



ma-cha-ja

MIH
"no"



MIH

mi

OLIS
"all" or
"the whole set"



'o-OL-si

ON
"many"



'o-na

SAMIY
"this morning"



sa-MIH-yi

YUWAL
"then"



'i-yu-wa-la

Nouns - Structures

NAAH

"structure" or
"house"



NAAH



NAAH



SAK-nu-ku-NAAH

"White Pelt(?) House"

YOTOOT

"the home of"



yo-OOTOOT



yo-OOTOOT-ja



NAAH-yo-OOTOOT-ja



yo-OOTOOT-ti



yo-OOTOOT-ti



yo-to-ti

WITZ

"mountain"
(can refer to
a pyramid)



??-NAAH

"Pyramid"



MUHKNAL

"tomb" or
"burial place"



MUHK-ku-NAL-la

WAAYIB

"dreaming
place" or
"residence of
a Supernatural"
(literally "bed")



WAY-bi WAY-bi

PIBILNAAH

"sweatbath"



pi-bi-li-NAAH

??-NA

"Ballcourt"



Nouns - Monuments

LAKAMTUUN

"great stone"
(stela)



LAKAM-TUUN-ni



la-ka-ma-TUUN-ni



LAKAM-TUUN-ni



LAKAM-TUUN

??

"altar"



'u-??-li



'u-ku-nu-li



ya-??



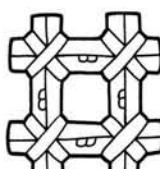
?

EHB

"step" or
"ladder"



EHB
"stair"



EHB
"ladder"



'e-bu
"stair"



YAX-EHB
"green ladder"

'U CHUMIB

"his seat" or
"his bench"



'u-CHUM-mu-bi

'U PAKAB

"his lintel"
(literally "face down thing")



'u-pa-ka-ba

'U PASIL

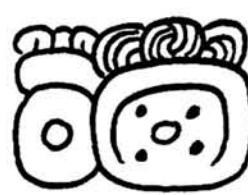
"his doorway"



'u-pa-si-li

SAK BIH

"white road" or
sacbe



SAK-bi-hi

TEM? or TEMU?

"throne" or
"seat"



TUUN

"stone" or
"monument"



TUUN-ni

Nouns - Places

CH'EEN

"cave" or
"spiritual center
of polity"



CH'EEN



CH'EEN-na



CH'EEN-na



CH'EEN-na

CHAK EK'

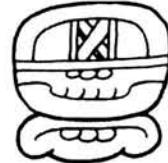
"Venus"
(literally "Red Star")



CHAK-EK'

CHAN

"sky"



CHAN-na

EK'

"star"



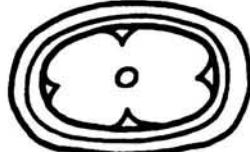
HA'

"water"



K'IN

"sun" or
"day"



KAB

"earth" or
"territory"



POLAW

"sea" or
"ocean"



UH

"moon"



WAAY

"cenote" or
"watery cave"
(jaws of the
Earth)



WITZ

"mountain"

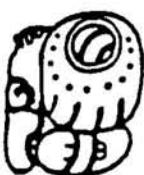


tu-WITZ-li
"his mountain"

Nouns - Warfare

BAAK

"bone" or "captive"



'u-ba-ki
"his captive"



BAAK
"captive"



BAAK
"captive"

CHAAN

"property of" or
"master of"



'u-CHAN-nu
"his property"



'u-cha?-CHAN-nu
"his property"

CH'ICH' ?

"blood"



CH'ICH' ?

KO'HAW

"helmet"



KO'HAW

TOOK' PAKAL

"flint & shield"



TOOK'-PAKAL
"flint & shield"



'u-to-k'a-pa-ka-la
"his flint & shield"

YEHT

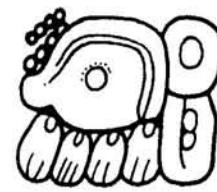
(a captive/captor
relationship)



ye-he-TE'



ye-he-TE'



ye-je-TE'

Nouns 1

AAT

"penis"



AAT-ti

BAAK

"bone" or
"captive"



ba-ki



ba-ki

'U BAAH

"he, himself" or
"his image"



'u-ba



'u-ba-hi



'u-ba-hi



'u-ba-hi

BIH

"road"



bi-hi



bi

BUUL

"beans"



bu-la

CHOK CH'AAH

"scattered or threw
incense"



u-CHOK-ch'a-hi
"his scattered incense"

HAAB

"year"



HUUN

"book" or
"paper"



hu-na



HUUN-NA



HUUN-na

IK'

"breath" or
"wind"



K'AAL

"enclosure" or
"room"



'u-k'a-li
"his enclosure"

Nouns 2

K'ABA'

"name"



K'UH K'ABA
"holy name"

K'AHK'

"fire"



TZ'EH K'AB

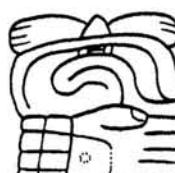
"Left Hand"



TZ'EH K'AB

NOH K'AB

"Right Hand"



NOH K'AB

KABJIY

"territory" or
"under the
authority of"



'u-KAB-ji-yi
"his territory"

KELEEM

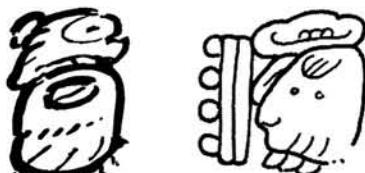
"young
boy"



ke-le-ma

NAB

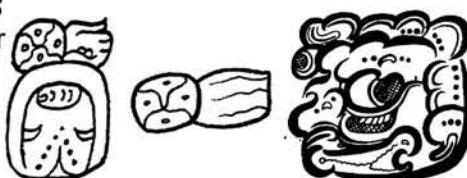
"size of ball"
(hand span)



na-ba KANLAJUUN-na-ba

NAHB

"pool" or
"sea"



NAL

"elote" or
"corn" /
also used
as a locative =
"place"



OHL

"heart"
"center"



OHL-la-si
"center"

yo-OHL-la
"his heart"

OK

"foot" or
"base"



'o-ki
"base"

yo-'o-ki
"his foot"

PAAT

"back"

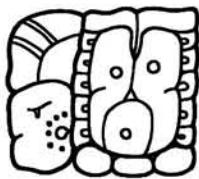


pa-ti

Nouns 3

PIXO'M

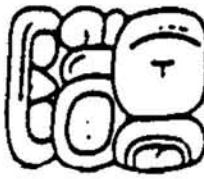
"hat" or
"headdress"



pi-xo-ma

SAK IK'IL

"soul" or
"white breath"



'u-SAK-IK'-li
"soul of"

TAHN

"chest" or
"center"



TAHN-na

TE'

"tree" or
"wood"



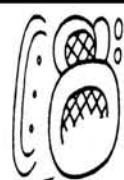
TOK

"spark"



TU'PAJ

"earspool"

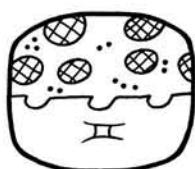


tu-pa
"earring"

'u-tu-pa
"his earring"

TZ'AM

"cushon throne"
(jaguar-covered
pillow)



TZ'IHB

"writing"



'u-tz'i-ba
"his writing"

'u-tz'i-bi
"his writing"

WINIK

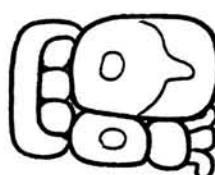
"person"



wi-WINIK-ki

WUUT

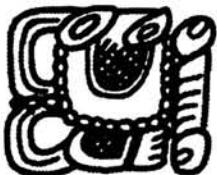
"face"



'u-wu-ti
"his face"

Y-AHK'TU

"gift"



ya-k'u-tu-u
"gift of"

YE'EH

"tooth"



ti-yeh-XOOK-ki
"the shark's tooth"

Nouns - Animals 1

Alligator or Crocodile - **AHIIIN**



Armidillo - **IBAK'**

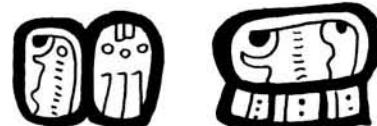


i-ba-ka

Bat - **SUUTZ'**



Bee - **KAB or CHAB**



KAB-ba

KAB-ba

Bird - **MUUT**



mu-ti

Cat - **HIX**



hi-HIX

Centipede - **CHAPAHT**



Coatimundi - **TZ'UTZ'IH**



tz'u-tz'i-(hi)

Deer - **CHIJ**



Dog - **TZ'I or OOK**



tz'i-i

Firefly - **KUHK'AY?**



Fish - **KAY or CHAY**



ka(y)?



cha-ya

Nouns - Animals 2

Gopher - **BAAH**



Hummingbird - **TZ'UNUN**



tz'u-nu-nu

tz'u-nu-(nu)

tz'u-nu-nu

Jaguar - **BAHLAM**



BAHLAM-ma

ba(h)-la-ma

Macaw - **MO'**



mo'-o

(MO?)'-o

mo'-o'-o

Monkey - **MAAX**



ma-xi

Monkey (Howler) - **BAATZ'**



ba-tz'u

Owl - **'O** or **KUY**



Rabbit - **T'UHL**



Quetzal - **K'UK'**



K'UK'



k'u-k'u

Snake - **CHAN** or **KAAN**



CHAN

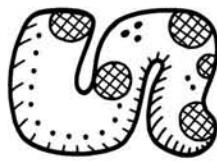


ka-KAAN

Shark - **XOOK**



Tail - **NEH**

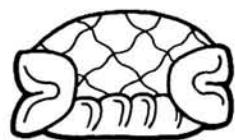


Nouns - Animals 3

Turkey - **AK'AACH**



Turtle - **AHK**



AHK



'a-ku

