

SUMMARY OF TEN SIMPLE SPELLING RULES IN THE AKLANON VERNACULAR

1. What letters make up our spelling?  
How many consonants? (17)  
How many vowels? (5)  
How many diphthongs? (16)  
How many foreign letters? (11)
2. Which is preferred in spellings "k" or "c"?
3. What does the "e" represent in Aklanon?  
Consonant: fricative /ɛ/  
Vowel: mid front vowel /e/
4. Which is preferred in native spelling: "i" or "e"?
6. What is the simple "u"-"o" spelling rule?  
Starting at the end of the word, alternate "o"-"u"  
towards the front. /u - o - u - o/  
What are the exceptions to this spelling rule?  
(a) All affixes maintain a fixed spelling.  
(b) All one syllable words (except "ku") have "o".  
(c) All exact reduplications are spelled with the same  
sound, either "o" or "u", based on the pronunciation.  
(d)
7. How is the hyphen used?  
As a glottal sound symbol between a consonant and a vowel.  
As a separator for roots reduplicated of more than two syllables.
9. Can affixes ever be separated from their root words? When and how.  
Only by a hyphen if the root begins with a vowel.
5. Spell only what is sounded? No gu combinations anymore?
8. Should consecutive vowels be separated?  
Not unless there are two glottal sounds or a very long pause  
between them.
10. What about foreign words adopted into the dialect?  
Spell them the way they are in the foreign language until  
a native spelling is accepted and not ridiculed. Spell them  
but underline or put them in quotation marks.

## WHY HAVE CONVENTIONS IN THE AKLANON VERNACULAR SPELLING?

"It is desirable to have a nationally uniform orthography of all the Philippine languages and dialects, because

- a. The uniformity will make it easy for the children at school to switch easily to the Filipino Language when the time comes for them to learn to read and write in the said language.
- b. Uniformity of orthography will aid in the future simplification and development of the language and literature of a dialect region, in relation to national literature.
- c. Uniformity of orthography will contribute to the development of the sense of unity and the willingness to fall in line with it habitually for the sake of country.
- d. The educational value of a nationally uniform system of spelling lies in the resulting ease that a Filipino may switch from one dialect to another without having to exert much mental effort in adapting his writing according to the demands of regionalistic orthography.
- e. National uniformity will help keep literacy more permanent by the avoidance of distinct rules of spelling for each dialect."

### OTHER POINTS:

1. "Names of persons, steamships, buildings and similar entities, identified with proper names are to be retained in their original and/or official orthography and sound, unless there is a local or native version." Examples:

Quezon, Roxas, Gen. Wood, Khrisnamurty, ss. Roosevelt, Kennedy

2. Whenever a dialect has a typical phoneme not found in Tagalog, the regional accepted spelling is to be accepted for that sound. Example "e" in Aklanon is a symbol for the fricative "ɣ" sound found in that dialect. Hence, "baeay" for /baɣay/, and "saemat" for /saɣmat/.

10 3. "Words of recent entry or definitely borrowed from foreign languages should retain the original spelling until a native spelling is commonly accepted and not made a point of ridicule. Words like: "jet, oso, oras, check, time, six-by-six, jeep, ice cream" should maintain the original spelling, apart from the rules contained in the remainder of this paper. Native spellings of the above words would read: "dyit, usɔ, uras, tsik, taym, siks-bay-siks, dyip, ayskrim" but such spellings are not commonly accepted and would be ridiculed. Popular usage takes a little time to show finality.

(Adopted from: "Guiding Principles for a nationally uniform orthography of all Philippine languages and dialects", INL, February 28, 1962.)

CONVENTIONS ON THE SPELLING OF THE AKLANON DIALECT (R. David-Zuro, PCV, Kalibo)  
 As in complete accordance with the Institute of National Language brochure: "Guiding Principles for a nationally uniform orthography of all Philippine languages and dialects" (February 28, 1962).

① The MEMBERS OF THE AKLANON DIALECT'S ALPHABET used in the spelling of most words are as follows:

VOWELS = "a, e, i, o, u" ("e" and "o" are borrowed, but definitely in use)  
 CONSONANTS = "b, k, d, e (fricative "g"), g, h, l, m, n, ng, p, r, s, t, w, y,  
 - (glottal stop in middle of a word).

It should be noted that the symbol "e" is used for two very distinct sounds, the standard vowel sound "e" (as in "relo, puede, sige"), and the native fricative sound (transcribed as "g" by linguists, as in "baeay, hueay, pueos, baee").

The FOREIGN LETTERS that follow are only used in the spelling of names and places  
 "c, z, x, v, j, f, ñ, ll, qu, ch, sh"

In order to achieve unity throughout the province with regard to the spelling of the vernacular, the following observations are suggested as STANDARD CONVENTIONS:

② "k" is preferred to "c" in all native words, and even in vernacularized versions of foreign words. Examples:

ako	okra
ikaw	Kalibo
kamo	kalibotan
kasayod	makahinguha
kinahangean	kurae

③ The symbol "e" is used to represent a consonant (transcribed /g/) and a vowel (transcribed /e/). If "e" appears in an environment with a vowel, it will be known as a consonant:

baeay	paey	<del>relo</del>
kaemay	suey	eskoyla
saemat	sueod	
kueon	eati	

However, if "e" appears in an environment with a consonant or semivowel ("y, w"), then it will be known as the vowel:

puede	pangadye	relo
babaye	kalye	eskoyla
yelo	permi	eskoylahan
Ella	Edgar	

3. All Aklanon diphthongs are spelled with "w" or "y", not with the junction of two vowels (such as "ao, io"). Thus, the diphthongs in Aklanon are:

"ay, aw, iw, oy, uy, wa, ya, ye, yi, yo" Examples:

may	buybuy
baybay	puyot
adlaw	waea
awas	walig
isiw	yabi
baboy	velo
uyon	tiya
mlsik	tiyo

When two vowels do happen to appear together, they are read individually (because a glottal stop is understood to occur between them). Examples:

huo	tuo
buot	tao
siin	taob
an <sup>h</sup> nuo	pait
ball	baog

⑨

④ The letter "i" is preferred to the letter "e" except in foreign words where "e" is clearly sounded and accepted in the spelling:

imo	jet
bilin	relo
ila	pena
ibis	Jose
mani	pare

⑤ The "o"-"u" spelling alternations call for a distinction between root words and affixes. All affixes have a fixed spelling, while root words allow for alternations depending on the number of syllables. The following four rules should simplify the "o"-"u" problems--and still spell words in the same way they are spoken:

(a) All prefixes and other affixes have the same spelling on all occasions:

inog-	("inogbunit")	manog-	("manogitlog")
-um-	("sumuod")	-on	("bu-on, daon")

Note that Aklanon has two sorts of reduplication. Since these actually reduplicate the same syllable or the same sound, they should retain identical spelling. The two types of reduplication are: (1) reduplication of the first consonant and first vowel of the root word, as in:

tambubuyog	magbubuhat	amuevnae
kabubut-on	nabubuhi	anunuo
		adidway

and (2) the reduplication of the first vowel of the root word with the "e" (/ɛ/) as in:

makaueuoy	makabueusog
mahuayon	tagbuginga

(3) The -an suffix can change "o" → "u" *adunam, katapusan*

(b) ROOT WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE ARE SPELLED WITH "o", as in:

eon ro do ko mo kros hoe ron

Exception: in order to simplify the reading and sense of a text, the marker "ku" is spelled this way to set it apart from the pronoun form "ko", as in:

baeay ko...	ginbakae ko...
baeay ku pari...	ginbakae ku ina...

(c) ROOT WORDS THAT CONSIST OF IDENTICALLY REDUPLICATED SYLLABLES SHOULD SPELL EACH SYLLABLE THE SAME, DEPENDING ON THE VOWEL SOUND. Examples:

lolo	suk suk
so so	bukbuk
tonton	tungtung
bongbong	tuktuk
bo-bo	usus
toto	kuku

(d) ROOT WORDS of two syllables or more have "o" in the final syllable, and "u" in the second last syllable, and alternate in this manner thereafter ("o" in third from the last syllable, "u" in fourth from the last syllable). Examples:

tubi	puso
sueod	likod
buot	puos
taob	agod
tubod	bacos
bangeos	nahungod
komusta	anomuo
bucobungso	kotikot

Remember that this applies to root words, not the the prefixes or affixes attached:

tagipuso-on (the root word is "puso", "-on" is an affix)  
 kabubut-on ("bu" is a reduplication, "-on" is an affix)

⑥ The dash ("-") is used to show an internal glottal stop or to separate words which might be hard to read without its presence. Examples:

(a) The "-" is used to show an internal glottal sound between a consonant and a vowel, as in:

man-o	an-om
sin-o	tam-is
gae-om	kan-on
bug-on	kabubut-on

If a long pause occurs between two vowels (because of two glottal stops), then the dash can also be used: as in "tagipuso-on" or "puno-an".

⑦ The "-" is not necessary between vowels since the glottal sound is automatically understood to separate them. Although many are spelling the following words with dashes, the dash or hyphen is not necessary in:

buot	euoy	bae
sin	tuod	tao
baog	tuo	naog
siit	huo	paot

because: ① no diphthongs as "ae"  
 ① glottal can be understood;  
 ② easily read as distinct;  
 ③ in redup. too many hyphens.

(c) The "-" is used to separate words of two or more syllables when they are repeated or reduplicated:

paino-ino	baeay-baeay
tanan-tanan	adlaw-adlaw
bulok-bulok	sige-sige

⑧ The "-" should not be used to separate affixes from root words unless a glottal stop is present, since the words are complete in themselves:

→ nagabet  
 → nag-abot

mababakae	pagsimba
ginabuligan	manogitlog
pangtindahan	nagadto
nakakita	kinatawohan
hidadakpan	ginapaeangan

naga-adto  
 naka-itlog

When root begins with a vowel, hyphen can be used.

⑨ In no case should these affixes be totally separated from the root.  
 No more /gu/ only /gi/ - gid, gina-, gin-.