

read syllabics will not pronounce as intended. Roughly speaking, you can think of writing something in syllabics as converting it from the CLC spelling to the syllabic spelling. Since English spelling does not correspond straightforwardly to CLC spelling, even when the English word is compatible with the Carrier sound system, you can't work directly from the English spelling.

An example of the problems that can result from following the English spelling too closely is the name "Kate", which actually has only one syllable and whose closest Carrier approximation is spelled <ket> in the CLC system. The best syllabic spelling is therefore ᑲᑦ . If you follow the English spelling too closely and transliterate <ka> into ᑲ and <te> into ᑦ , the result, ᑲᑦ , will be pronounced by someone who knows syllabics as two syllables /ka/ followed by /te/, which would typically be spelled in English something like <katay>.

Another example is "Susan", which in the CLC spelling, more accurately reflecting the sound, is <Soozun>. The correct syllabic version is therefore ᑭᑦᑳᑦᑳ . If you work directly from the English spelling you will get ᑳᑳ , which is pronounced like "Suh-san".

The next step is to adapt the English pronunciation to the sound system of Carrier. Sounds that do not occur in Carrier must be replaced with a Carrier equivalent. In some cases there is a choice because Carrier has added some sounds that did not occur pre-contact. For example, early loans into Carrier replaced /r/ with /l/. Later loans use /r/, which has become a Carrier sound.

The final step is to work out how to write the Carrier-ized pronunciation of the word in syllabics.

Carrier has only six vowels plus the diphthongs written /ai/ and /aw/ and, in some Southern dialects, one instance of /ew/ (*wedlew* "sandpiper"). Most speakers of Canadian English have a total of 24 vowels and diphthongs. Various English vowels must therefore be mapped onto the same Carrier vowel. For example, the [æ] sound of English words such as "lamb" and "mast" does not exist in Carrier and is usually adapted as /a/. Similarly, the English contrast between the vowels of "bit" and "beat" does not exist in Carrier. Both are treated as /i/.

English also has some consonant sounds that Carrier does not have, such as the <th> sound of "Timothy". This sound may be adapted to /s/ or /t/.

English words never begin with a vowel. They often begin with a vowel letter, but it is actually preceded in speech by a glottal stop. Since this is automatic, it is not written in English. In Carrier, however, words can begin with vowels, so if they begin with a glottal stop, it has to be written. For example, the words **a** "yes" and **ʼa** "quickly" are not the same. An English word written with an initial vowel therefore has a glottal stop when written in the CLC system. For example, "Adam" is **ʼadum**.

As an example, let's consider how to write "Sarah" in conservative Carrier. The two <a>s do not represent the same sound, and the <h> is silent. The pronunciation of "Sarah" can be represented in the Carrier Linguistic Committee system as <seru>. Notice that the final vowel is not really an /a/ sound; it is more like the <u> of "but". Since the /r/ sound is not native to Carrier, a conservative Carrier version of this would be <selu>, in syllabics, ᑳᑦᑳ . The old-time version is actually ᑳᑦ for reasons too complicated to go into here.

Here are some English names written using the most expansive version of the syllabics, with both the native extensions and letters like <f> to mostly closely approximate the English pronunciations.

Adam	·<D ^c ('adum)
Chris	'rD ^s (kris)
Donovan	C∩ ^v D [∩] (danuvun)
Frank	fr<D [∩] ' (frank)
Gladys	'C∩ ^s (gladis)
Grace	'rD ^s (gres)
Michelle	∩∩ [∩] (mishel)
Nikki	∩∩ (niki)
Violet	^v ∩∩∩ [∩] (vayolet)

The spellings in parentheses are Carrier Linguistic Committee equivalents of what is written in syllabics.

In earlier times, the /r/s would have been replaced with /l/s, both /f/ and /v/ with /b/. Furthermore, the consonant cluster /gl/ was not originally possible in Carrier and was replaced with /dl/, as in *ludloo* “nail”, which is still in use in some areas rather than *lugloo* (from French *le clou*). Conservative versions would therefore be:

Adam	·<D ^c ('adum)
Chris	∩ ^s (tlis)
Donovan	C∩D [∩] (danubun)
Frank	[∩] C [∩] ' (blank)
Gladys	C∩ ^s (dladis)
Grace	∩ ^s (dles)
Michelle	∩∩ [∩] (mishel)
Nikki	∩∩ (niki)
Violet	∩∩∩ [∩] (bayolet)

Some English words have traditional Carrier equivalents. These are mostly based on the French counterparts of the English words. For example, if English “Mary” were the source of its Carrier equivalent, we would expect the Carrier to be “Meli”, not “Mali”. Here are some examples:

English	Carrier	Syllabics	French
David	Dabit	C∩ [∩]	David
John	Za ²	C	Jean
Mary	Mali	∩∩	Marie
Mary Anne	Melyan	∩ [∩] C [∩]	Marianne
Virginia	Belzeni	∩ [∩] ∩ [∩]	Virginie

People may wish to use the traditional equivalent of the name rather than the closest approximation of the English pronunciation.

To summarize, here are the steps involved:

- 2 This is usually spelled **Zaa** in English, but strictly speaking, the CLC spelling is just **Za**.

- 1) If the word is a name, decide whether you want to use the traditional Carrier version of the name or want to write the English version of the name. If you use the traditional Carrier version, you can go directly to step 4.
- 2) If you are going to write the English version, think about how it is pronounced and re-spell it in the CLC writing system to the extent you can. (That is, except for sounds that don't exist in Carrier.)
- 3) Adapt the pronunciation as necessary to the sound system of Carrier. If you want to create a version that sticks closely to the pre-contact sound system, you may need to consult an expert.
- 4) Write the adapted version in syllabics.