



DAKOTA PHRASES FOR SEMI-FLUENT SPEAKERS

Dakodiapi Wowapi

Sounds: Vowels

There are 8 vowels in the
Dakota language:

Short Vowels

Nasalized Vowels

A as in awesome

AN is nasalized

E as in wet

I sounds like E

IN is nasalized

O as in open

U sounds like
oo like cool

UN is nasalized

Sounds: Consonants

The following sounds do not occur in the Dakota language: f, j, l, q, r, v or any combination of these sounds.

B - ba KSA - to cut

Gh - ghu - bum

bdo KE tu - summer

GHO pa - snore

chan KU - road

H - ho TUN -
owl/eagle sound

Ch - CHA gha - ice

han YE tu - night

Ch' ch'o CH'O ye -
gurgling

Kh - khan TE -
cedar

D - DU za han

khe MA ni - train

do WAN - sing

K - kuTE - shoot

Sounds: Consonants

K' – k'o K'O ya – a
gulping sound

KU zhan – lazy

KA – over there

Kg – KA gha –
make

M – MA gha –
field

ma GHA –
goose or geese

N – na KHUN –
heard

na PCHA – swallow

O – o PE i ch'i tun
–buy

o HI ti ka – fierce

P – puTE – snout

pi YE – fix

P' – p'o – fog

Pb – pa ZO – to show

S – su TA ya –
tightly or firmly

Sh – shku

MNA – sour

SHUNka – dog

Sounds: Consonants

Td – tuWE – who

TOku nu – why

T – ta ZHU shka
– ant

to KA ya – first

T' – t'E – die

t'a T'A – rot

W- WI pa zo ka
– Saskatoon

Y – ya KHTA
ke – bite

Zh –zhan ZHAN
– bottle

Z – zib ZI pe – thin

ZU ya - war

ZHO – whistle

Dakota

English

Ocheti yu asni

Turn the Stove
off

Changhupuntina

Frying Pan

Bdo basku

Peel the
potatoes

Tdo
cheghughuya

Fry the meat

Tashupa ozhutuna
onghe cheghughu
yapi

Fry some
sausages

Dakota

English

Mniskuya hiyu
ya

Pass the salt

Mniskuya sapa
hiyu ya

Pass the pepper

Owaha yughan

Open the
window

Tiopa yughan

Open the door

Owanka kahinta

Sweep the floor

Dakota

English

Owankayuzhazha

Mop the floors

Wakshicha
hduzhazha,
mahed iyeya

Wash the dishes
and put them
away

Taku shicha tanked
ehednaka /
Tankad akhpeya

Take out the
garbage

Akanunpi
otkeya

Hang up your
jacket

Wishkate mahed
ikihuna ka

Put your toys
away

Dakota

English

Hanpa tiopa ed
ehnaka

Put your shoes
at the door

Heyake
hduzhazha

Do your laundry

Michunkshi, heyake
hduzhazha okihi?

I am sorting the
kids clothes

Shichecha heyake
enana awahanake

My girl, can you
do the laundry?

Heyake otkakiya

Hang up your
clothes

Dakota

English

Ti uma pikiye

Clean your
room

Wowapi
yahdushta he?

Did you finish your
school work?

Wanna nitakoda hdi
shi? / Wanna hde shi.

My girl, can you
do the laundry?

Shichecha heyake
enana awahanake

Tell your friend
to go home now

Wan na kuyenakh
yahdekta keyapi

They said you
have to go home
right away

Dakota

English

Wan na wahde
kte ye/do

I have to go back
now/ I am going to
go back home now

Tohan yaki
kta he?

When will you
get home?

Wan na echada
wahde kte

I have to go
home soon

Hin han yaki he?

Did you get back
last night?

Echada ya ki he?

Did you get
home early?

Dakota

English

Tehan wahde
shni

I didn't go home for
a long while

Henakh hdi
shni (wo)

Don't go
home yet

Echada yahde
kte he?

Are you going to
go home early?

Wanna iwanka!

It's time to go
to bed

Inzhazha/woshka
ta he yuasni

Turn off the
lights/games

Dakota

English

Shichecha
hewankapi chinpi

The kids want to
have a sleep over

Hokshikaghapida
yuha shkata

She is playing
with dolls

Shichecha kin
niwan yachinpi

The kids want to
go swimming

Tokiya
naichi'hmibedakin
yaka he?

Where are your
bicycles?

Tabshkata
yashkatapi he?

Are you playing
baseball?

Dakota

English

Tabnakhtakapi

Football

Tabkapsicha

Hockey

Dechada hokuwa
ya i he?

Have you gone
fishing lately?

Dechada

Lately

Echada

Soon

Dakota

English

Bdesich'iye
Anoghoptan,
wachakize shni

Be good, behave,
no fighting

Henna tawa ye,
ayushtan naghe
iyeshni

Those are hers,
Leave them alone

Chahampi shashada
wishkate
okich'ich'ub

Share your
candy/ toys

Dechadda
hokuwa ya i he?

Have you gone
fishing lately?

O k'u

To share/borrow

Dakota

English

Takozha
anaghoptan
nazhipin kin

The grandchildren
are listening

Kikta ye! Wanna
Wayawa itokshu
u ye

Get up now, the
school bus is
coming

Wanna
Ihduzhazha
bosdipi

Have a
shower now

Hikpazhazha

Brush your
teeth

Ite hduzhazha
wanna

Wash your
face now

Dakota

English

Pahin hdakcha

Brush your hair

Wotewahda

I am hungry

Wod unye
kte he

Let's go for
supper

Taku yate kta he?

What are you
going to eat?

Takhcha Tado
wate kte

I am going to
eat deer meat

Dakota

English

Imapi ahash

I am so full

Woyute kin
nina washte

The food
was good

Taku datkan he?

What are you
drinking?

Mni bdatke

I am drinking
water

Taku datkan
che he?

What do you
want to drink?

Dakota

English

Pezhuta sapa
bdatkan ch'e

I drink coffee

Pezhuta sapa
wiyaya he?

Is the coffee
ready?

Taku datkan he?

What are you
drinking?

Mni bdatke

I am drinking
water

Taku datkan
che he?

What do you
want to drink?

Dakota

English

Pezhuta sapa ed
asanpi ahan
chahampi yachin he?

Do you want milk and
sugar for your coffee?

Asanpi naku chahampi
pezhuta sapa ed oya he
naka yachin he?

Do you want me to
put milk and sugar
in your coffee?

Mnisnina
bdatke

I drank a coke

Iyokapte mitawa kin
takuda ohan ed unshni

My cup is
empty

Wakhpe
wakpapsun

I spilled my tea

Dakota

Taku yate
yachin he?

Iyutaka, wote

Titokan

Toshka wicha
owiyugheta titokan
bdekte / Akhana
owiyugheta toshka
wicha waye titokan
bdekte

English

What do you
want to eat?

Sit down
and eat

Visit

I'm going to
Brandon
tomorrow to
visit my
nephews

Dakota

English

Titokan
unyekte

Let's go
visiting

Iyamakipa
(wo)

Wait for
me (male)

Akhanna kahan
unyabta kepe ye/do

I said we are
going tomorrow

Wan na hde kta
ke ye

He said he's going
to go home now

Khtanihan khtani
wah i shni

I didn't go to
work yesterday

Dakota

English

Tag tokanu he?

What are you
doing?

Wawachi ye/do

I am dancing

Mawani ye/do

I am walking

Mayani he?

Did you walk?

Wadowan ye/do

I am singing

Dakota

English

Washpanyaye
he?

Did you cook?

Wayakagheghe
he?

Are you
sewing?

Takuda
echamukte shni

I am not doing
anything

Wan na
woyata he?

Did you eat
already?

Hiya, Wan na de
wawate kte

No, I am going to
eat right now

Dakota

English

Nina tanyan
odowan

You sang very
well

Pezhuta wichashta
wayadakte he?

Are you going to
see the doctor?

Niwayazaka he?

Are you sick?

Washpanwaye
ye/do

I am cooking

Wawakagheghe
ye/do

I am sewing

Dakota

English

Wawate ye/do

I am eating

Bdatke ye/do

I am drinking

Waimnakahe
ye/do

I am running

Wowahdake
ye/do

I am talking

Hiya, Wan na de
wawate kte

No, I am going to
eat right now

Dakota

English

Nina tanyan
odowan

You sang
very well

Pezhuta wichashta
wayadakte he?

Are you going to
see the doctor?

Niwayazaka he?

Are you sick?

Awaichihdekan

Take care of
yourself

Wochekiye eya

Say a prayer

Dakota

English

Anamichikchshi
(wo at the end for
male speaking)

Meaning to
support one
another

Tiwahe wita
inazhinpi

A family stands
together

Ichichunza

Commitment

Iyowadwakiya

To honor

Wiyaka

Feather

Dakota

English

Wahinyazhicha

Plume

Wiyaka Wapaha

Feather
Headdress

Michinkshi

My son

Michunkshi

My daughter

Inaya

To be her son or
daughter

Dakota

English

Hunku

His mother,
her mother

Atkuku

His father,
her father

Niyate

Your father

Ni /niye

You

Miye

Me

Michincha
tiwichawakhinda

My children are
my life

Dakota English

When Dakota children are born, they are initially named using the same five names based on the birth order of the child. Birth order names are separate for boys and girls. The first born names are given to children that are first born. A family can only have one first born child. The names are:

Boys	Birth Order	Girls
Chaske	First Born	Winona
Hepan	Second Born	Ha'pan
Hepi	Third Born	Hapstin
Wichitopa	Fourth Born	Topainazhin
Hak'e	Fifth Born	Wihake

Dakota

English

Place names of towns surrounding
& in relation to Sioux Valley

Chankaghe
wakantuye

Rivers

Inyan tipi

Winnipeg

Bdote

The Forks

Akasum

Griswold

Bde tanka

Fort Qu'Appelle,
Saskatchewan

Dakota

English

Place names of towns surrounding
& in relation to Sioux Valley

Bde hakan

Spirit Lake,
North Dakota

Oiyugheta

Brandon

Huhu wakpa

Regina

Otunhu chan
otunwi

Oak Lake

Unkche ichupi

Virden

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