

Skagit (Puget Salish) Phonemes

Stops	[v]	p	t	c ¹	č		k	k ^ω	q	q ^ω	ʔ
	[g]	p̣	ṭ	c̣	č̣	ʔ̣ ²	ḳ	ḳ ^ω	q̣	q̣ ^ω	
	[vd]	b	d	j	ǰ		(g) ³	g ^ω			
Fricatives	[v]			s	š	ʦ		x ^ω	ɣ	ɣ ^ω	h
Resonants	[vd]	w			y	l					
	[g]	ẉ			ỵ	ḷ					
Nasal	[g]	(ṃ) ⁴									
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Vowels⁵	[high] ⁶		i			u					
	[mid] ⁷				ə						
	[low]				a						

1. /c/ and /j/ represent the alveolar affricates [ṭṣ] and [ḍʒ̣], respectively.
2. /ʔ̣/ represents [ṭʰ̣], a voiceless ejective (rather palatalized) lateral affricate; there is no corresponding plain or voiced lateral affricate.
3. Occurs in one root only, /gádəgəd/ 'tickle'.
4. Occurs in one root only, /ṃíṃaʔd/ 'small'. Puget Salish is one of very few languages (three of which – Quileute, Nitinat, and Skagit – are Northwest Indian languages, though unrelated, and separated spatially) in which nasal consonants do not occur. Proto-Salishan nasals have mutated into voiced stops in Skagit, a change that can be shown to have occurred since contact was initiated with Europeans.
5. The (rare) long vowels are written as geminates. Thus, /hiiʦ/ '(be) happy'. There are three degrees of sentence stress; primary /´/ and secondary /`/ occur only in roots. Unmarked stress is the norm in affixes.
6. The high vowel phonemes /i/ and /u/ have the respective mid allophones [e] and [o] in the environment of the postvelar consonants (the various /q/'s and /ɣ/'s). Thus the interrogative predicate /ʔəɣíd/ '(be) how?' is pronounced [ʔəɣéd].
7. There are three phonologically distinct schwas. Stressed [á] always represents the segmental phoneme /ə/ in its own right, but an unstressed [ə] might be /ə/, or an unstressed allophone of the phoneme /a/, or the result of epenthetic cluster reduction.