

(SKIDEGATE DIALECT)
Tentative, April 1972

English	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
Haida	a	b	ch	d			g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n		p			s	t	u		w	x	y	7
				dl			gw				k'	i	(m)	n						t'			w	xw	y	
							<u>g</u>				<u>k</u>	lh		ng						ty				<u>x</u>		
							<u>gw</u>				<u>k'</u>			(ng)						tl				<u>xw</u>		
							gy				ky									tl'				xy		
							<u>gy</u>				ky'									ts'				<u>xy</u>		
											ky															
											<u>ky'</u>															
											kw															
											kw'															
											<u>kw</u>															
											<u>kw'</u>															

A. There are 58 meaningful sound differences that we must be able to express in writing down the Haida Language. Of the 26 symbols available to us from the English alphabet, we will use only 19 symbols, plus the symbol for the number "seven". The remaining symbols for the Haida alphabet are obtained by using 4 special markings, along with the English alphabet symbols. These four special markings are as follows:

1. ' We use an apostrophe beside the symbol to represent special Haida sounds that are "strongly exploded", and an apostrophe above the symbol to represent special Haida sounds that are "weakly exploded".
2. We use a line underneath the symbol to represent special Haida sounds that are produced relatively further back in the mouth.
3. w We use a "w" beside the symbol to represent special Haida sounds that are produced with rounded lips.
4. y We use a "y" beside the symbol to represent special Haida sounds that are produced with the tongue slightly-raised and quite far forward in the mouth.

B. We can divide the symbols for Haida sounds into seven different groups:

1. Symbols used to represent Haida sounds in approximately the same way that they are used to represent English sounds:

b ch d dl g h j k l m n ng p s t tl w y

2. Symbols for the vowel sounds, some of which are like English, and others of which occur only in Haida:

a i u

3. Symbols for the special Haida sounds for which there are no corresponding English alphabet symbols:

lh x 7

4. Symbols for Haida sounds that are "exploded" or "glottalized":
 a) strongly-exploded: k' k' ky' ky' kw' kw' t' t' ts'
 b) weakly-exploded: l m n ng w y
5. Symbols for Haida sounds that are produced relatively further back in the mouth:
 g gw gy k k' ky ky' kw kw' x xw xy
6. Symbols for Haida sounds that are produced with rounded lips:
 gw gw kw kw' kw kw' xw xw
7. Symbols for Haida sounds that are produced with the tongue slightly-raised and quite far forward in the mouth:
 gy gy ky ky' ky ky' ty xy xy

C. The Use of the Stress Mark /

Note that it is very important to mark the part of each Haida word that is pronounced loudly:

sky'aji	"eye-brow"	gya7at	"blanket"
hawit	"hurry up"	xwuya	"Raven"
xit7it	"any bird"	dlgwi	"fall over"
dagwl	"side of body"	tl'1gi	"soak a salmon"
tl'1kw'1	"liver"	gya7isd1	"potlatch"
skitlgwu	"red huckleberries"	tlgwun7ulh	"six"
gatkadas	"jump"	tldagaw	"mountain"
lhl nagwu	"brother-in-law"		

Group 1 consists of those symbols used to represent Haida sounds in approximately the same way that they are used to represent English sounds.

b * Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language

b		b	
aba	"chew food for a child or old person"	sabli	"bread"
ch		ch	
chay	"salmon eggs, or, human kidney"	chiju	"big, blown up"
chinga	"grand-father"	chan	"mud"
chit'isku	"coat"	china	"any fish"
d		d	
dagalh	"tomorrow"	didan	"blue-fly"
sding	"two"	kw'uda	"lips"
gwuda	"box"	tl'adan	"gorge"
xwuda	"blowing"	dagwl	"side of body"
dl		dl	
dlay	"calm"	dlging	"hold a person in your hand"
dlkwuna	"a tall person"	gandl	"water"
gya7isd1	"potlatch"		

g	ginang	"paddle a canoe"	g	kw'uga	"heart"
	gawjaw	"drum"		k'aga	"dry"
	gant'axyit	"going"		gaw	"lost"
h			h		
	hawit	"hurry up!"		halakats'i	"expression of greeting"
	sahgi	"on top of"		k'ah	"laugh"
	dah	"cranberry"		huna	"dull"
	higa	"straight"			
j			j		
	jigwu	"gun"		sky'aji	"eye-brow"
	dapju	"short"		jada	"woman"
	skwúji	"bone"		jinga	"far away"
	lhgajú	"rack for drying halibut"			
k			k		
	skaju	"round"		kiga	"name, or, meat"
	skayxan	"any basket"		lhkay	"chin"
	skapju	"bent"		kingay	"news"
	kixi	"light (in weight)"		kilhgwu71	"talk"
l			l		
	skal	"shoulder"		sgil	"black-bird"
	ky'alu	"cormorant"		k'alts'ida	"crow"
	sk'alju	"boil"		dagwl	"side of body"
	lhlnaga	"brother-in-law"		skwul	"porpoise"
	tl'ikw'i	"liver"			
m			m		
	lamga	"drunk"		mamats'ik'i	"dragon-fly"
	t'am	"louse"		gam	"no"
	malú	"fresh water minnow"		t'amju	"narrow"
n			n		
	t'agwun	"feather"		kwun	"nose, or, whale"
	kan	"front part of the body"		gan	"any berry"
	k'an	"grass"		na	"house"
	nijang7u	"mask"		gyagan	"mine"
ng			ng		
	sgwansng	"one"		sding	"two"
	gudingay	"a thought"		guxagang	"burning"
	ilhnga	"man"		yagalang	"ancestors"
	ngal	"a type of sea weed (herring lay their eggs on it)"		nang	"to play"
				sng	"day"

p * Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language

p		p	
k'apju	"flat"	t'apju	"tall or straight"
dapju	"short"		
s		s	
isng	"more; again"	sahgi	"above"
tlsta	"long ago"	sgway	"back"
t'ask'i	"walking stick"	sk'alju	"boil"
st'ay	"foot"	silh	"cooking with heated stones"
s7aga	"anything soft"		
t		t	
tan	"bear"	k'at	"deer"
gya7at	"blanket"	gyitga	"any child"
tada	"cold (of weather)"	k'it7at	"cut off"
tl		tl	
tlsta	"long ago"	tlu	"canoe"
tlalga	"husband"	tldagaw	"mountain"
stln	"needle"	tlilhl	"five"
tla7alh	"ten"	k'itl	"cut something off"
tlgay	"land; ground"		
w		w	
k'aw7u	"sit down"	awga	"mother"
tawt'a	"food storage box"	gawjaw	"drum"
sk'awgan	"salmonberries"	gaw	"lost"
saw	"oolichan"	st'awa	"witch-craft"
xiwa	"south-east wind"		
y		y	
tl'aytl'ay	"blue-jay"	xaynanga	"alive"
xyay	"arm"	sgway	"back"
taydan	"bed"	yananga	"cloud"
gaya	"fat"	aya	"I don't know it"
galyahgu	"mid-night"	k'aya	"old people"

Group 2 consists of those symbols used to represent Haida vowel sounds, some of which are like English, and others which occur only in Haida.

a *Note that the Haida vowel sounds associated with this symbol vary from the vowel sound of English "earth", to the vowel sound of English "bat", to the vowel sound of English "but", to the vowel sound of English "bought", to the first vowel sound of English "father".

a		a	
aba	"to chew food for a child or old person"	k'ants'ida	"cheek"

a		a	
xáng7i	"eye"	xyay	"arm"
tla7alh	"ten"	xay	"sun"
kyahgi	"outside"	xay	"sinew"
gya7isd1	"potlatch"	gaya	"fat"
tl'alga	"husband"	dawgangga	"younger sister"

i *Note that the Haida vowel sounds associated with this symbol vary from approximately the vowel sound of English "beat", to approximately the vowel sound of English "bait", to the vowel sound of English "bit".

i		i	
chinga	"grand-father"	sqil	"black-bird"
kiga	"name, or, meat"	sahgi	"above"
kw'i	"earth"	sk'in	"gull"
isda	"make something"	xyil	"leaf, or, medicine"
xil	"neck"	ilhnga	"man"

u *Note that the Haida vowel sound associated with this symbol vary from the vowel sound of English "boot", to the vowel sound of English "pull", to the vowel sound of English "boat".

u		u	
kw'un	"pants"	tagwun	"spring salmon"
tlu	"canoe"	kw'uxwu	"marten"
gwut	"bald eagle"	gwúda	"box"
xwúndal	"break down"	úngu	"on top"
xitgu	"under"	gaju	"open"
gyu	"ear"	xwúda7u	"bailer"

Group 3 consists of those symbols used to represent some special sounds that occur only in Haida, and for which there are no corresponding English alphabet symbols.

lh *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "l", except that it is produced "silently".

lh		lh	
tlilhl	"five"	tlgwún7úlh	"six"
tla7alh	"ten"	lhkin	"term of affection, used for children"
ilhnga	"man"	lhga	"stone"
lhkyama	"stalk of the long ocean sea-weed"	skayhl	"cry"
		lhu	"whole body"

x *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a "friction" sound that is produced in the middle part of the mouth.

*This sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language

x		x /	
xay	"sun"	kixi	"light (in weight)"
gyaxa	"stand up"		

7 *Note that the Haida sound represented by this symbol is a "catch in the throat" (called a "glottal stop"). We write this glottal stop everywhere that it occurs, except at the beginning of words that begin with a vowel.

7		7	
xang7i	"eye"	tlā7alh	"ten"
gya7isd1	"potlatch"	di7a	"I"
gya7at	"blanket"	da7l	"rain"
lā7a	"he;she"	s7aga	"anything soft"

Group 4 consists of those symbols used to represent Haida sounds that are "exploded" or "glottalized" (produced with a sharp quality).

a) symbols used to represent strongly-exploded Haida sounds:

k' *Note that this symbol represents a strongly-exploded Haida "k".

k'		k'	
k'aju	"small"	sk'itgan	"salal-berries"
k'anlhgalh	"yellow"	k'ina	"hot"
k'ay	"crab-apple"	k'aga	"dry"
k'ih	"sharp"	k'ah	"laugh"
k'at'a	"throw"	k'iji	"stomach"

k' *Note that this symbol represents a strongly-exploded Haida "k" (for description of "k", see page 9).

<u>k'</u>		<u>k'</u>	
k'at	"deer"	k'ants'ida	"cheek"
k'ang	"hemlock tree"	k'as	"pitch"
k'aya	"old person"	sk'ila	"dirt"
sk'in	"sea-gull"	k'aji	"fish milt"
k'aju	"sing"	k'ah	"sleep"
k'itl	"cut something off"		

* Note the difference between skal "shoulder" and sk'al "fluid that comes from a person's eyes"

ky' *Note that this symbol represents a strongly-exploded Haida "ky".
(for description of "ky" see page 11).

ky'alu	"a fish-eating bird" (cormorant)	ky'al	"leg"
ky'ilhga	"tide going out"	lhky'inxa	"bush"
sky'aji	"eye-brow"	ky'u	"path; door"
t'aky'inga	"grand-child"		

ky' *Note that this sound occurs rarely in the Haida language

*Note that this symbol represents a strongly-exploded Haida "ky" (for description of "ky" see page 11)

ky'
sky'ugi "moustache"

ky'

kw' *Note that this symbol represents a strongly-exploded Haida "kw" (for description of "kw" see page 10)

*Note the difference between kwun "nose;whale" and kw'un "pants".

kw'		kw'	
kw'uxwu	"marten"	kw'ut7ulh	"dead"
skw'aga	"high water"	kw'uda	"lips"
tl'lkw'i	"liver"	skw'u11	"many people"
kw'ayga	"older sister"		

kw' *Note that this symbol represents a strongly-exploded Haida "kw" (for description of "kw" see page 9).

*Note the difference between kwung "moon" and kw'ung "wild-rose bush"

<u>kw'</u>		<u>kw'</u>	
kw'ust'an	"crab"	kw'i	"earth"
kw'u7an	"fur seal"	kw'uxyt	"bite"
kw'u1ga	"God (invisible power)"		

t' *Note that this symbol represents a strongly-exploded Haida "t"

*Note the difference between tagwun "spring salmon" and t'agwun "feather".

t'		t'	
xwut'a	"adze"	t'agwu	"copper plate"
tawt'a	"grease box"	t'aw7a	"spruce needle"
t'am	"louse"	st'awa	"witch-craft"
st'i	"sick"	st'a71	"snail"
t'agaw	"snow"		

tl' *Note that this symbol represents a strongly-exploded Haida "tl".

*Note the difference between tlu "canoe" and tl'u "wedge".

tl'		tl'	
tl'aytl'ay	"blue-jay"	xwutl'l	"drink"
tl'l7al	"fire-weed"	tl'l7xwuts'l	"food-tube (aerophagus)"
gyatl'i	"sewing"		

ts' *Note that this symbol represents a strongly-exploded Haida "ts".

ts'		ts'	
kats'ilha	"go in!"	ts'u	"red cedar tree"
ts'ing	"teeth, beaver"	ts'iga	"thin"
ts'ik'i	"back of head"		

b) Symbols used to represent weakly exploded Haida sounds, which are produced with a slight "catch in the throat"

l' *Note that this symbol represents a weakly-exploded Haida "l".

*Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language

l'		l'	
lagyiŋang	"give a feast"	lah king gan	"I saw him"
sing la	"good weather"		

^ˈm *Note that this symbol represents a "weakly exploded" Haida "m".

*Note that we must be able to represent this sound, should we run across it in the Haida language. ^ˈm is a sound that we would expect to find, just as we find ^ˈl ^ˈn ^ˈw ^ˈy, even though they occur quite rarely.

^ˈn *Note that this symbol represents a weakly exploded Haida "n"

*Note that this symbol occurs very rarely in the Haida language.

^ˈn
hunis "that one"

^ˈng *Note that this symbol represents a weakly exploded Haida "ng"

*Note that we must be able to represent this sound, should we run across it in the Haida language. ^ˈng is a sound that we would expect to find, just as we find ^ˈl ^ˈn ^ˈw ^ˈy, even though they occur quite rarely.

^ˈw *Note that this symbol represents a weakly exploded Haida "w"

*Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language.

^ˈw
tla7alh wi sgwansng gaw "mine"

^ˈy *Note that this symbol represents a weakly exploded Haida "y"

*Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language

^ˈy
yuju "big" ^ˈy
haylu "all gone"

Group 5 consists of those symbols used to represent Haida sounds that are produced relatively further back in the mouth:

^ˈg *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "g", except that it is produced further back in the mouth

*Note the difference between sgil "belly-button" and sgil "black-bird"

^ˈ g	^ˈ g		
gandl	dagalh	"water"	"tomorrow"
gaya	lhgalh	"fat"	"black"
galga	sgit	"dark"	"red"

^ˈgw *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "gw", except that it is produced further back in the mouth. (for description of "gw" see page 10)

^ˈ gw	^ˈ gw		
tlgwun7ulh	gwut	"six"	"bald eagle"
dlqwi		"fall over"	

^ˈgy *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "gy" except that it is produced further back in the mouth. (for description of "gy" see page 11)

*Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language.

^ˈgy
sgyiw "type of edible sea-weed"

k *Note that the sound represented by this sound is like Haida "k", except that it is produced further back in the mouth.

<u>k</u> skitl <u>g</u> u	"red huckleberries"	<u>k</u> ka <u>j</u> i	"head"
ka <u>g</u> a	"uncle"	ki <u>n</u> a	"heavy (weight)"
ki <u>n</u> g	"see"		

k' *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "k'", except that it is produced further back in the mouth. (for description of "k'" see page 6)

*Note the difference between k'ah "laugh" and k'ah "sleep"

<u>k'</u> k'ants'ida	"cheek"	<u>k'</u> k'itl'l	"cut something off"
k'aju	"sing"	k'axada	"dog-fish"
k'alhu	"get up"	k'aja	"fish milt"

ky *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "ky", except that it is produced further back in the mouth. (for description of "ky" see page 11)

*Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language

<u>ky</u> lhkyama	<u>ky</u> "stalk of the long ocean sea-weed"
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ky' *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "ky'", except that it is produced further back in the mouth. (for description of "ky'" see page 11)

*Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language

<u>ky'</u> sky'ugi	<u>ky'</u> "moustache"
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kw *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "kw", except that it is produced further back in the mouth.

*Note the difference between kway "hip" and kway "rope"

<u>kw</u> skwul	<u>kw</u> "porpoise"	<u>kw</u> skwu <u>da</u>	"hit with fist"
gi <u>n</u> a <u>k</u> wan	"lots (of any- thing)"	<u>k</u> wung	"moon"

kw' *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "kw'", except that it is produced further back in the mouth. (for description of "kw'" see page 7)

For examples of "kw'" see page 7)

x *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "x", except that it is produced further back in the mouth. (for description of "x" see page 5)

<u>x</u> ga <u>x</u> a	<u>x</u> "child"	<u>x</u> xa	"dog"
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<u>x</u> xilh7i	"mouth"	<u>x</u> xatga	"girl's father"
<u>x</u> xagu	"halibut"	<u>x</u> xida	"low"

xw *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "xw" except that it is produced further back in the mouth. (for description of "xw" see page 11)

<u>xw</u> chixwa	"low water"	<u>xw</u> xwuya	"raven"
<u>xw</u> xwut	"seal"	tl'l'xwuts'l	"food-tube, esophagus"

xy *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "xy" except that it is produced further back in the mouth.

*Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language

<u>xy</u> xyiw7i	"rib"	<u>xy</u>
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Group 6 consists of those symbols used to represent Haida sounds which are produced with rounded lips:

gw *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "g", except that it is produced with rounded lips. (for examples of "g" see page 3)

<u>gw</u> gway	"island"	<u>gw</u> gwul	"tobacco"
halh gwilhaka	"come here!"	sgway	"back"

gw *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "g", except that it is produced with rounded lips. (for description of "g" see page 8)

For examples of "gw" see page 8)

kw *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "k", except that it is produced with rounded lips. (for description of "k" see page 3)

<u>kw</u> kway	"hip"	<u>kw</u> kwun	"nose; whale"
skwuji	"bone"	kwunju	"sneeze"

kw' *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "k'", except that it is produced further back in the mouth. For examples of "kw'" see page 7.

kw *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "k", except that it is produced with rounded lips. (for description of "k" see page 9) For examples of "kw" see page 9)

kw' *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "k'", except that it is produced with rounded lips. (for description of "k'" see page 9) For examples of kw' see page 7)

*Note the difference between k'ang "hemlock tree" and kw'ang "to burst"

xw *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "x", except that it is produced with rounded lips. (for description of "x" see page 5)

xw		xw	
xwútl'l	"drink"	xwúda7u	"bailer"
xwi	"cold"	lhkwúxwugay	"lungs"
xwúda	"blowing"	lhtaxwi	"friend"

xw *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "x", except that it is produced with rounded lips. (for description of "x" see page 9) For examples of "xw" see page 10.

Group 7 consists of those symbols used to represent Haida sounds which are produced with the tongue slightly-raised and quite far forward in the mouth;

gy *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "g", except that it is produced with the tongue slightly raised and quite far forward in the mouth.

gy		gy	
gyá7isd1	"potlatch"	gyá7at	"blanket"
gyu	"car"	gyagang	"totem pole"
gyaxa	"stand up"	gyátl'i	"sewing"

gy *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "g", except that it is produced with the tongue slightly raised and quite far forward in the mouth. (for description of "g" see page 8) For examples of "gy", see page 8.

ky *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "k", except that it is produced with the tongue slightly raised and quite far forward in the mouth. (for description of "k" see page 3).

ky		ky	
kyuk'ija7u	"hammer"	kyahgi	"outside"

*Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language

ky' *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "k'", except that it is produced with the tongue slightly raised and quite far forward in the mouth. (for description of "k'" see page 6)
For examples of "ky'" see page 9.

ky *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "k", except that it is produced with the tongue slightly raised and quite far forward in the mouth. (for description of "k" see page 9)
For examples of "ky", see page 9.

ky' *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "k'" except that it is produced with the tongue slightly raised and quite far forward in the mouth. (for description of "k'" see page 9) For examples of "ky'", see page 9.

ty *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like a Haida "t", except that it is produced with the tongue slightly raised and quite far forward in the mouth. (for description of "t" see page 4)

*Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language.

ty		ty
tyah		
	"kill"	

xy *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "x", except that it is produced with the tongue slightly raised and quite far forward in the mouth. (for description of "x" see page 5)

*Note that this sound occurs very rarely in the Haida language.

*Note the difference between xay "sun" and xyay "arm".

xy		xy	
xyah	"dance"	xyigya	"bracelet"
xyil	"leaf or medicine"		

xy *Note that the sound represented by this symbol is like Haida "x", except that it is produced with the tongue slightly raised and quite far forward in the mouth. (for description of "x" see page 9)

For examples of "xy", see page 10.