

Vowels

Vowels are sounds that are pronounced with open vocal tract...with no articulators touching.

Hul'q'umi'num' has a five-vowel system.

/i/ /e/ /a/ /u/ /ou/

i

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| kiks | 'cake' |
| pipu | 'paper' |
| stiwun | 'niece, nephew' |

e

| | |
|------|----------|
| ten | 'mother' |
| telu | 'money' |

a

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| pas | 'to get hit' |
| tawun | 'town' |

u

This is called the "schwa" sound.

| | |
|--------|---------|
| yunus | 'tooth' |
| tupsum | 'neck' |

In English, schwa is spelled many ways:

above, but

ou

This sound is very rare, mostly existing in loan words.

| | |
|---------|---------|
| koul | 'gold' |
| kapou | 'coat' |
| lumutou | 'sheep' |

Consonants: p, t, k, s, h, l, m, n, y, and w

As you have probably already noticed, many of the consonants in Hul'q'umi'num' have pretty much the same sound and the same spelling as in English.

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| p | |
| pas | 'to get hit' |
| patun | 'sail' |
| pipu | 'paper' |

| | |
|--------|---------|
| t | |
| telu | 'money' |
| tawun | 'town' |
| tupsum | 'neck' |

| | |
|--------|------------|
| k | |
| kiks | 'cake' |
| koul | 'gold' |
| stekun | 'stocking' |

All of these consonants are very common in Hul'q'umi'num', except for k, which only appears in words borrowed from English or from French via Chinook Jargon.

| | |
|-------|-------------|
| s | |
| situn | 'basket' |
| sil | 'cloth' |
| hesum | 'to sneeze' |

| | |
|-----|----------------|
| n | |
| nas | 'to be chubby' |
| ten | 'mother' |

| | |
|-------|-------------|
| h | |
| hilum | 'to fall' |
| hesum | 'to sneeze' |

| | |
|-------|------------|
| y | |
| yunus | 'tooth' |
| yunum | 'to laugh' |

| | |
|-------|-----------------|
| l | |
| lemut | 'to look at it' |
| telu | 'money' |

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| w | |
| wekun | 'wagon' |
| stiwun | 'niece, nephew' |
| tawun | 'town' |

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| m | |
| men | 'father' |
| temut | 'to yell' |