TWULSHOOTSEED ADVISORY NOTICE

The Lushootseed language is spoken by 13 tribes in the Puget Sound region in Washington State. We, the Puyallup people call the language txʷəlšucid or Southern Lushootseed. We honor and uphold the alphabet system that Lushootseed speaking elders created decades ago. They were adamant about not changing this writing system and we will do our best to ensure the Lushootseed language is properly represented.

PHONETICS OR ANGLICIZED SPELLINGS

Several of the Lushootseed speaking elders agreed upon the current alphabet system that we use today that consists of 43 characters. Each letter represents one sound. Some of our alphabet consists of English sounds, however there are 18 sounds that do not exist in English, therefore the English alphabet is not capable of expressing non-English sounds. Our Lushootseed speaking elders made it very clear that they did not want this system changed. They stressed the importance of keeping our alphabet the way it is. **This is why we do not provide phonetic or anglicized spellings of our language.** We do however, provide lots of materials, videos and explanations of how to learn our language and how to produce the sounds.

PROPER FONTS

While you can copy and paste the phrases, they need to stay in Times New Roman, Calibri or Candara font to maintain the proper format of the characters. If other fonts are used, this may corrupt the Lushootseed characters making them incorrect.

This is why we are adamant about proofing Lushootseed materials that come out of our office. This includes Lushootseed on posters, shirts, newspapers, etc. Many things can go wrong when Lushootseed is pasted into certain programs, and we'd like to prevent that at all costs.

CAPITAL LETTERS

The Lushootseed language does **not** use capital letters. Please do not put the phrase in CAP locks or CAP fonts, and please do not capitalize letters at the beginning of sentences.

PUNCTUATION AND QUESTION MARKS

Also please note that while Lushootseed does utilize some English punctuation, such as "periods" and "exclamation marks," the English "question mark" is **never** used in Lushootseed. Lushootseed has its own question marker and questions words that do not require the English question mark.

ə ≠ e

In the Lushootseed alphabet, there are four vowels: a ə i u. The Lushootseed alphabet does not share all the same vowels and sounds as English. The most common mistake we see is the English "e" used in the place of the Lushootseed "ə" schwa. There is no English "e" in the Lushootseed language.

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THE WEDGE SYMBOL

There are a handful of letters in the Lushootseed alphabet that contain a wedge symbol " ˇ " that looks like a small "v" on the top of a letter (č č̓ ǰ š x̌ x̌ʷ). Some fonts can cause the wedge symbol to appear off to the side of the letter; this is incorrect placement.

ROOT MARKER

When looking in the Lushootseed dictionary, you will see a root marker √ in some of the words. A root marker denotes the root word, when a prefix or suffix is added to the word. For example, in the dictionary, the word for day "sləx̌il" is written, "s√ ləx̌-il." In written form, "sləx̌il" is correct; the form with the root marker is the linguistic form of the word, and should not be used when writing the word in documents.

PARENTHESES

We put letters within parentheses that are silent, the same way English uses an apostrophe for silent letters, for example in the word "isn't" and "doesn't", where the apostrophe represents a silent o. A Lushootseed example includes: haʔɫ kʷ(i) adsəslabcəbut, "Watch over yourself well."

KEYBOARD VS. LUSHOOTSEED FONT

There are 43 characters in our alphabet, and not all of them are regular English characters. For typing special characters you will need a **software keyboard**. This is different from a **font**. A keyboard sends characters to the computer and the computer uses fonts to display those characters.

If you use a **font** for Lushootseed the keyboard is still sending the original key to the computer. So if you switch fonts or send your text to someone who does not have the font installed, it will display the English character.

However, with a **software keyboard**, when a key is pressed it sends the code for the Lushootseed character to the computer and the computer uses a system font to display the letter. This is better because most platforms have at least 1 font that can display all Lushootseed characters. The only catch to this is that some special fonts or even common fonts can have issues displaying certain characters.

Please note, if you have the Lushootseed font installed on your computer, it does not act as an English to Lushootseed translator.

THE LUSHOOTSEED ALPHABET

We have provided the Lushootseed alphabet below as a reference to assist and ensure proper placement of the Lushootseed letters in any printed materials.

ʔ a b c c̓ č č̓ d dᶻ ə g gʷ h i ǰ k k̓ kʷ k̓ʷ l l̓ ɫ ƛ̓

m n p p̓ q q̓ qʷ q̓ʷ s š t t̓ u w w̓ xʷ x̌ x̌ʷ y y̓