

Punjabi

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

Spoken in: India, Pakistan

Region: Punjab

Total speakers: 27 million (Eastern) 61-62 million (Western)

Genetic Classification: Indo-European Indo-Iranian Indo-Aryan Punjabi

Official language of: Punjab, India

Punjabi is the language of the Punjab regions of India and Pakistan. It is an Indo-European language of the Indo-Iranian subfamily. There are several different scripts used for writing the Punjabi language, depending on the region and the dialect spoken, as well as the religion of the speaker. Sikhs and others in the Indian state of Punjab tend to use the Gurmukhi script. Hindus, and those living in neighbouring states such as Haryana and Himachal Pradesh sometimes use the Devanagari script. Finally, Muslims, and in general Pakistani Punjabis, use a modified Arabic script called Shahmukhi.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 2 Punjabi sessional interpreters.

Gurmukhi script

Vowels and Vowel diacritics

ਅ	ਆ	ਇ	ਈ	ਉ	ਊ	ਏ	ਐ	ਓ	ਔ
Mukta	Kanna	Sihari	Bihari	Onkar	Dunlankar	Lavan	Dulavan	Hora	Kanuara
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	e	ai	o	au
[ə]	[ɑ]	[ɪ]	[i]	[ʊ]	[u]	[e]	[æ]	[o]	[ɔ]
ਕ	ਕਾ	ਕਿ	ਕੀ	ਕੁ	ਕੂ	ਕੇ	ਕੈ	ਕੇ	ਕੌ
ka	kā	ki	kī	ku	kū	ke	kai	ko	kau

Consonants

ੳ	Ura a, ā, ai, au	ਅ	Aira i, ī, e	ੲ	Iri u, ū, o	ਸ	Sussa sa [sə]	ਹ	Haha ha [hə]		
ਕ	Kakka ka [kə]	ਖ	Khukha kha [kʰə]	ਗ	Gugga ga [gə]	ਘ	Ghugga gha [gʰə]	ਙ	Uṅga ṅa [ŋə]		
ਚ	Cucā ca [tʃə]	ਛ	Chucha cha [tʃʰə]	ਜ	Jujja ja [dʒə]	ਝ	Jhujja jha [dʒʰə]	ਞ	Yanza ña [ɲə]		
ਟ	Tainka ṭa [tə]	ਠ	Thutha ṭha [tʰə]	ਡ	Duḍa ḍa [dʱə]	ਢ	Dhūḍa ḍha [dʱʰə]	ਣ	Nahṇa ṇa [ɳə]		
ਤ	Tutta ta [tə]	ਥ	Thutha tha [tʰə]	ਦ	Duda da [də]	ਧ	Dhuda dha [dʰə]	ਨ	Nunna na [nə]		
ਪ	Puppa pa [pə]	ਫ	Phupha pha [pʰə]	ਬ	Bubba ba [bə]	ਭ	Bhubba bha [bʰə]	ਮ	Mumma ma [mə]		
ਯ	Yaiyya ya [jə]	ਰ	Rara ra [rə]	ਲ	Lulla la [lə]	ਵ	Wawa wa [wə]	ੜ	Rahra ra [rʰə]		
ਸ਼	śa [ʃə]	ਜ਼	za [zə]	ਫ਼	fa [fə]	ਖ਼	xa [xə]	ਗ਼	ya [ɣə]	ਲ਼	la [lʰə]

Other symbols

ੰ	ਟਿੱਪੀ (tippī) - indicates nasalization. Used with a, i and u, and also with ū when in final position.	ਤੰਦ	taṁd [tə̃d] - strand
ਂ	ਬਿੰਦੀ (bindī) - indicates nasalization. Used with all other vowels.	ਸ਼ਾਂਤ	śānt [ʃā̃t] - peaceful
ੜ	ਅਧਕ (adak) - doubles the consonant before which it appears.	ਹੁੱਟੀ	huttī [hʊ̃ttī] - tired
੍	ਹਲਨਤ (halant) - silences the inherent vowel. Sometimes used in Sanskritised text and dictionaries.	ਕ੍	k
ੜ	ਵਿਸਰਗ (visarg) - used very occasionally to represent an abbreviation or to add a voiceless 'h' after a vowel.	ਕੜ	kah
ੴ	ek onkar - often used in Sikh literature. It literally means 'one God'.		