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q^waaʔaʕii kaʕhak • Weather

ʔuwii • Introduction

We will learn to exchange polite comments about the weather, including questions and negative statements.

In the advanced section, we will learn to quantify the weather as ‘very’ versus ‘a little bit’, to use the ending *–!aʔ*, and to use weather words in the complete aspect.

If you learn only one conversation about the weather, let it be this one. It's friendly when you greet someone to say something about the weather, and to politely agree.

1A. ?uu?uuqukma..... It's a nice day.

1A. wiiwiiqukma. It's a dreary day.

1B. ?aanima ?uu?uuquk. It sure is nice.

1B. ?aanima wiiwiiquk..... It sure is dreary.

There is no Nuuchahnulth word for ‘weather’. Instead, we talk about how the day is, or the outdoors, or a place. Practise asking about the weather, describing it, and agreeing politely.

- ʔupaa hot weather
 - maʔaa cold weather
 - muuʔuk high tide
 - haayʔi low tide
- 2A. ʔaaqinʔaʔha kaʔhak How’s the day?
- 2A. ʔaaqinʔaʔha hitaas How is it outdoors?
- 2A. ʔaaqinʔaʔha hitinqis How’s the beach?
- 2B. __-maʔ It’s __.
- 2A. ʔaanima __ It sure is __.

- ▶ Note. In most dialects, both hot weather and sunny weather are described as *ʔupaa*. Only in Kyuquot-Checleset, sunny weather is described as *ʔupin*.
- ∞ Exercise. Practise using conversation 2 to talk about the weather. Don't go on until you can perform it without reading.

Here are some more kinds of weather. Practise saying each word alone, then plus *-ma'*. Then use them in conversation 2.

- ʔuuqumḥi calm weather
- wiiqsii stormy weather
- ʔupaa hot weather
- maʔaa cold weather
- naasʔaak clear, not raining
- miʔaa raining
- k^wisaa snowing
- hiwaḥak cloudy
- ʔučqak foggy
- yuʔi windy

Advanced

The ending *–!aλ* means that things are different from before.

Build these words. Then talk about how the weather is now.

- λupaa, λupaaʔaλ, λupaaʔaλma
- wiiqsii, wiiqsiiʔaλ, wiiqsiiʔaλma
- ʔuuqumḥi, ʔuuqumḥaλ, ʔuuqumḥaλma
- ḥiʔaḥak, ḥiʔaḥakaλ, ḥiʔaḥakaλma
- ʔuuʔuuquk, ʔuuʔuuquk^waλ, ʔuuʔuuquk^waλma
- muuḥuk, muuḥuk^waλ, muuḥuk^waλma
- ḥaaʔi, ḥaaʔaaλ, ḥaaʔaaλma

3A. ʔaaqinʔaλḥa kaλḥak..... How's the day now?

3B. __–!aλ–ma'..... It's __ now.

3A. ʔaanaaλma __. It sure is __ now.

To say ‘a little bit’, use *-ckin*. This ending comes before *-!aλ*.

Build these words. Then talk about how the weather is now.

- λupa^ˈaa, λupa^ˈaackin, λupa^ˈaackin?aλ
- ma^ˈlaaa, ma^ˈlaaackin, ma^ˈlaaackin?aλ
- hi^ˈwaḥak, hi^ˈwaḥakckin, hi^ˈwaḥakckin?aλ
- k^ˈwisaa, k^ˈwisaackin, k^ˈwisaackin?aλ
- yu^ˈ?i, yu^ˈ?ickin, yu^ˈ?ickin?aλ
- wiiqsii, wiiqsiickin, wiiqsiickin?aλ
- ?učqak, ?učqakckin, ?učqakckin?aλ

4A. ?aaqin?aλḥa kaλḥak..... How’s the day now?

4B. __-ckin-!aλ-maʼ..... It’s a little __ now.

4A. ?aanaaλma __-ckin. It sure is a little __ now.

To say ‘very’, we usually use the ending *SS–(q)aq*.

- λυραα, λυραααα, λυρααααα
- μάλαα, μάλαααα, μάλααααα
- μίλλαα, μίλλαααα, μίλλααααα
- yuʔi, yuʔiqaq, yuʔiqaqafaλ
- wiiqsii, wiqsiiqaq, wiqsiiqaqafaλ
- ʔučqak, ʔučqak^waq, ʔučqak^wafaλ
- muuʔuk, muuʔuk^waq, muuʔuk^wafaλ
- ɥaaʔi, ɥaaʔiqaq, ɥaaʔiqaqafaλ

5A. ʔaaqinʔaλɥa kaλɥak..... How’s the day?

5B. __–(q)aq–!aλ–maʔ. It’s very __ now.

5A. ʔaanaaλma __–(q)aq..... It sure is very __ now.

When the weather changes in a short time, we describe it using the complete aspect $-šičiλ$, $-čičiλ$, $-k^w iλ$ ‘become’, ‘start doing’.

- ʔuuʔuuquk, ʔuuʔuuqukšičiλ, ʔuuʔuuqukšičiʔaλ
- mīλaa, mīλšičiλ, mīλšičiʔaλ
- ńaasʔaak, ńaasʔačičiλ, ńaasʔačičiʔaλ
- λupaa, λupiičičiλ, λupiičičiʔaλ
- małaa, małiičičiλ, małiičičiʔaλ
- yuʔi, yuuk^wiλ, yuuk^wiʔaλ
- wiiqsii, wiiqsiičičiλ, wiiqsiičičiʔaλ

6A. ʔaaqinʔaλħa kaλħak..... How’s the day?

6B. __-šičiλ-!aλ-maʔ..... It has become __ now.

6A. ʔaanaaλma __-šičiλ. It sure has become __ now.

Note. We can also use *?iih* to mean ‘very’, but this is less common.