

Lesson 6. Weather

6.1. Learning goals

- to be able to discuss the weather using questions, positives, and negatives
- to be able to use ‘very’ (*?iih*) and ‘a little bit’ (*-ckin*)
- to be able to use the ending *-?aλ* when discussing weather

6.2. Conversations

1A	<i>?uu?uuqukma.</i>	It’s nice weather.
2B	<i>?aanima ?uu?uuquk.</i>	It sure is nice weather.
2A	<i>λupaaha.</i>	Is it hot?
2B	<i>haa, λupaama.</i>	Yes, it’s hot.
2B	<i>wikmaa λupaa. maλukma.</i>	It’s not hot. It’s cold.
3A	<i>?aaqinħa naas?ii.</i>	How’s the weather?
3B	<i>miλaama.</i>	It’s raining.
3B	<i>hayaa?akah q^waa?aλii naas?ii.</i>	I don’t know how the weather is.
4A	<i>naši?i q^waa?aλii naas?ii.</i>	Look how the weather is.
4B	<i>yu?ickinma.</i>	It’s a little windy.
4B	<i>?iiħmaa k^wisaa!</i>	It’s really snowing!

6.3. Words

<i>?uuqumħi</i>	calm weather	<i>k^wisaa</i>	snowing
<i>wiiqsii</i>	stormy weather	<i>yu?i</i>	windy
<i>?uu?uuquk</i>	nice surroundings	<i>?učqak</i>	foggy
<i>wiiwiiquk</i>	bad surroundings	<i>naas</i>	day, weather
<i>małaa, maλuk</i>	cold weather	<i>?aaqin</i>	how
<i>λupaa</i>	hot weather	<i>q^waa</i>	how it is
<i>λupaa</i>	sunny	<i>?iiħ</i>	big
<i>ħiwahak</i>	cloudy	<i>?anah?is</i>	small
<i>miλaa</i>	raining	<i>našiλ</i>	look

6.4. Notes on talking about the weather

Words based on the root *?uuq-* refer to pleasant feelings, surroundings, or weather. The opposites of these meanings are expressed with the root *wiiq-*.

(1)	root	feeling		surroundings		weather
	<i>?uuq-</i>	<i>?uuqmis</i>	pleasant	<i>?uu?uuquk</i>	nice	<i>?uqumħi</i> calm
	<i>wiiq-</i>	<i>wiiqmis</i>	unpleasant	<i>wiiwiiquk</i>	nasty	<i>wiiqsii</i> stormy

You can make sentences out of weather words by adding a mood ending to them.

- (2) ?uu?uuquk-ḥa. Is it nice? ?uu?uuquk-ma. It's nice.
 ?učqak-ḥa. Is it foggy? ?učqak-ma. It's foggy.

∞ **Exercise 1.** For each of these weather words, say the word alone, then build a question with *-ḥa*, then a statement with *-ma*.

ʕupaa	miʕaa	?uuqumḥi	kʷisaa	?uu?uuquk	wiiqsii
?učqak	maʕuk	yu?i	hiwahaḥak	wiiwiiquk	ʕupaa

Example. wiiqsii 'stormy', wiiqsiiḥa. 'Is it stormy?', wiiqsiiima. 'It's stormy.'

To make a negative statement, use *wikmaa* 'it is not'.

- (3) kʷisaa-ma. It's snowing. wikmaa kʷisaa. It isn't snowing.
 yu?i-ma. It's windy. wikmaa yu?i. It isn't windy.

Mood endings go after the first word of their sentence. If *-ma* follows a one-syllable stem (like *wik* or *?iiḥ*), then it is said *-maa*, with a long vowel. (See lesson 9.)

∞ **Exercise 2.** With a partner, ask yes-or-no questions about the weather. Answer appropriately. Use the same words as in Exercise 1.

Example. A. hiwahaḥaḥa. 'Is it cloudy?' B. haaʔa, hiwahaḥakma. 'Yes, it's cloudy.'

Example. A. miʕaaḥa. 'Is it raining?' B. wik, wikmaa miʕaa. 'No, it isn't raining'

6.5. Notes on 'very' and 'a little'

The word *?iiḥ* means 'big' or 'very'. The ending *-ckin* means 'a little bit'.

- (4) ?iiḥ-maa ʕaḥiqs. It's a big box.
 ?iiḥ-maa maʕuk. It's very cold.
 ?anaḥ?is-ma načaalyak. It's a small book.
 ʕupaa-ckin-ma. It's a little sunny.

∞ **Exercise 3.** For each weather word, make two sentences, saying that it is a little bit like that, and a lot like that. Use the same words as in Exercise 1.

Example. yu?ickinma. 'It's a little windy.' ?iiḥmaa yu?i. 'It's very windy.'

6.6. Notes on -ʔaʕ

The ending -ʔaʕ indicates that something has changed from how it was before. It can be translated as ‘now’, or ‘then’, or not at all. It comes before mood endings.

(5)	ʔuuqumḥi-ma.	It's calm.	ʔuuqumḥi-ʔaʕ-ma.	It's calm now.
	kʷisaa-ḥa.	Is it snowing?	kʷisaa-ʔaʕ-ḥa.	Is it snowing now?
	wiiqsii-ḥa.	Is it stormy?	wiiqsii-ʔaʕ-ḥa.	Is it stormy now?
	ʔiiḥ-maa yuʔi.	It's very windy.	ʔiiḥ-ʔaʕ-ma yuʔi.	It's very windy now.

-ʔaʕ is a hardening ending. If its stem ends in one of the sounds /p t ʕ c č k kʷ/, then it is pronounced -ʔaʕ, and the preceding sound is glottalized. (See lesson 8.)

(6)	ʔučqak-ma.	It's foggy.	ʔučqak-ʔaʕ-ma.	It's foggy now.
	wik-maa ḥiwahak.	It isn't cloudy.	wik-ʔaʕ-ma ḥiwahak.	It isn't cloudy now.
	ʔuuʔuuquk-ḥa.	Is it nice?	ʔuuʔuuqukʷ-ʔaʕ-ḥa.	Is it nice now?
	wiiwiiquk-ma.	It's nasty.	wiiwiiqukʷ-ʔaʕ-ma.	It's nasty now.

The rounding of *k* to *kʷ* in *ʔuuʔuuqukʷaʕ*, *wiiwiiqukʷaʕ* is a common change. The sounds *k*, *q*, *x*, *ɣ* tend to round after *u*, *uu*, and before another vowel. (See lesson 9.)

∞ **Exercise 4.** Say these sentences. Then say them with -ʔaʕ.

ʔuuqumḥiḥa.	Is it calm?	ḥiwahakma.	It's cloudy.
kʷisaama.	It's snowing.	ʔučqakḥa.	Is it foggy?
wiiwiiqukḥa.	Is it nasty?	ʔiiḥmaa ʔučqak.	It's very foggy.

Example. ʔuuqumḥiḥa. ‘Is it calm?’ ʔuuqumḥiʔaʕḥa. ‘Is it calm now?’

When -čkin and -ʔaʕ appear in the same word, it is always in the order -čkinʔaʕ.

∞ **Exercise 5.** Say these sentences. Find -čkin and -ʔaʕ, and say what they mean.

ʔaaqinʔaʕḥa ḥaasʔii.	How is the day now?
ʔiiḥʔaʕma ʔuuqumḥi.	It's very calm now.
wiiqsiičkinʔaʕma.	It's a little stormy now.
ʔiiḥmaa kʷisaa.	It's very snowy.
ʔučqakčkinma.	It's a little foggy.
ḥaʕiʔi qʷaaʔaʕii ḥaasʔii.	Look at how the day is now.
ʔiiḥʔaʕḥa ʕupaa.	Is it very sunny now?
miʕaackinʔaʕma.	It's raining a little now.

You can talk about different places using *ʔaḥkuu* ‘here’ and *yee* ‘over there’.

∞ **Exercise 6.** With a partner, pretend that you are at different schools, far from each other, talking on the phone. Ask your partner how the weather is where they are. Use these phrases to describe where you are talking about.

ʔaḥkuu here *hiḥ ʔiiḥʔii qicuwiḥ* at the big school
yee over there *hiḥ ʔanaḥʔisʔi qicuwiḥ* at the little school

Example. A. *ʔaaqinḥa ḥnaasʔii yee.* ‘How is the weather over there?’

Example. B. *ʔiiḥʔaḷma hiwahaḥak ʔaḥkuu.* ‘It’s very cloudy here.’

6.7. Test yourself

After finishing this lesson, you should be able to say these things in Nuuchahnulth.

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. How’s the weather now? | 9. It isn’t nasty. |
| 2. It’s snowing. | 10. It’s very stormy. |
| 3. Is it hot? | 11. It isn’t sunny now. |
| 4. I don’t know how the weather is. | 12. It’s a little cloudy. |
| 5. Look how the weather is. | 13. Is it raining a little now? |
| 6. Is it calm now? | 14. It isn’t very windy now. |
| 7. It’s really nice now. | 15. Is it kind of foggy? |
| 8. It sure is nice weather. | 16. It isn’t a little cold, it’s really cold! |