

Lesson 5. Introductions

5.1. Learning goals for year 1

- to memorize 7 conversations concerning introductions and personal interactions
- to be able to introduce oneself in Nuu-chah-nulth
- to be able to say who people are, and what they are called
- to recognize the past tense ending *-(m)it* when it refers to deceased people

5.2. Conversations

1A	ʔačaqłak.	What's your name?
2B	ʔukłaaſ ____.	My name is ____.
2A	ʔačaqk.	Who are you?
2B	hiſtathſ ____.	My tribe is ____.
2B	ʔuḥuks ʔumʔiiqsu ____.	My mother is ____.
2B	ʔuḥuks ḥuſwiiqsu ____.	My father is ____.
3A	ʔačaqḥ ḥaaſyaḥi ḥuucmaʔi.	Who is that woman?
3B	ʔuḥʔiiſ Joan.	She's Joan.
3B	łaacuučſ.	I don't know her.
4A	ʔačaqłah ḥaaſyaḥi čakupʔi.	What is that man's name?
4B	ʔukłaaʔiiſ Peter.	His name is Peter.
4B	hayumḥiſ yaqłaaſyii.	I don't know what he's called.
5A	q ^w aacumyiis hupii suutił.	How can I help you?
5B	łaałſiʔiſ hupii.	Please help me.
6A	ʔuuſčakſiłʔick.	Thank you.
6A	łeekoo.	Thank you.
6B	ču.	Acknowledged.
7A	yaaʔakukk ſiičił.	Do you love me?
7B	yaaʔakuks suutił.	I love you.

5.3. Words

ſiſyaaq	I, me (full)	ʔukłaa	called
ſiſya	I, me (short)	ʔuḥ.....	be
ſuſwaaq	you (full)	ʔuḥuk.....	one's is
ſuſwa	you (short)	hiſtath.....	from (tribe)
ʔačaq	who	hupii	help
ʔumʔiiqsu	mother	łaałſił.....	please
ḥuſwiiqsu.....	father	yaaʔakuk.....	love

5.4. Notes on thank yous

This lesson introduces two thank yous (*ʔuušćakšĩłʔick*, *ʔleekoo*). These are appropriate in different situations. For more information, see lesson 11 *Thanks*.

One does not say ‘You’re welcome’ in Nuu-chah-nulth. It is enough to say *čuu*.

5.5. Notes on *ʔuh*

The word *ʔuh* means ‘be’.

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| (1) | <i>ʔačaqh</i> ʔaaʔaʔi ʔuucmaʔi. | Who is that woman? |
| | <i>ʔuhʔiiš</i> Joan. | She’s Joan. |
| | <i>ʔačaqk</i> . | Who are you? |
| | <i>ʔuhs</i> Joseph. | I’m Joseph. |

The full forms of *I* (*siʔaaq*) and *you* (*suwaaq*) are also used for ‘I am’ and ‘you are’.

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| (2) | <i>siʔaaqs</i> Joseph. | I’m Joseph. |
| | <i>suwaaqʔick</i> Sally. | You’re Sally. |

∞ **Exercise 1.** With a partner, take turns asking who people in the room are. B can answer with *ʔuh*, or by saying ‘I don’t know him (or her).’

Example. A. *ʔačaqh* ʔaaʔaʔi čakupʔi. ‘Who is that man?’ B: *ʔuhʔiiš* Ed. ‘He’s Ed.’

Example. A. *ʔačaqk*. ‘Who are you?’ B. *ʔuhs* Jen. B. *siʔaaqs* Jen. ‘I’m Jen.’

5.6. Notes on introducing yourself

Use *ʔuhuk* plus a relationship word (like *ʔumʔiiqsu*, *nuwiiqsu*), to describe how you are related to others. *ʔuhuk* is the word *ʔuh* ‘be’, plus the possessive ending *-uk*.

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| (3) | <i>ʔuhuks</i> ʔumʔiiqsu Ellie. | My mother is Ellie. |
| | <i>ʔuhuks</i> nuwiiqsu Victor. | My father is Victor. |

The possessive ending takes several forms, including *-ʔak*, *-ak*, and *-uk*. The form *-ak* can be added directly to relationship words.

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| (4) | <i>ʔumʔiiqsaks</i> Ellie. | My mother is Ellie. |
| | <i>nuwiiqsaks</i> Victor. | My father is Victor. |

5.7. Notes on the past tense

When discussing deceased people, it is proper to use the past tense *–(m)it*.

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| (5) | ʔuḥuk ^w its ʔumʔiiqsu | Grace. | My late mother was Grace. |
| | ʔumʔiiqsakits | Grace. | My late mother was Grace. |
| | ʔuḥuk ^w its ḥuwiiqsu | Henry. | My late father was Henry. |
| | ḥuwiiqsakits | Henry. | My late father was Henry. |

5.8. Notes on tribal names

The ending *–!ath* means ‘live at’. It is used in the names of tribes.

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| (6) | nuučaaḥuḥʔath | Nuu-chah-nulth | ʔaʔuuk ^w iʔath | Tla-o-qui-aht |
| | čiiqʔisʔath | Checleseht | yuuḥuʔiʔath | Ucluelet |
| | qaaʔyuuḥ ^w ath | Kyuquot | tuk ^w aaʔath | Toquaht |
| | ʔiiḥatisʔath | Ehattesah | ḥuučuqʔisʔath | Uchucklesah |
| | nučaaʔath* | Nuchatlaht | čišaaʔath | Tsesah |
| | činoxintʔath | Chinehkint | huupačasʔath | Hupacasah |
| | muwačath | Mowachah | huufiiʔath | Huu-ay-aht |
| | mačʔaath | Muchalah | niitiinaʔath | Ditidah |
| | ḥišḥ ^w iiʔath | Hesquiaht | paaciinaʔath | Pacheedah |
| | ʔaaḥuusʔath | Ahousah | q ^w iniščaʔath | Makah |

With any of these tribe names, the ending *–!ath* can be replaced by *–!aqsup*, making a word that refers to a woman or girl of that tribe.

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| (7) | ḥišḥ ^w iiʔath | Hesquiaht | ḥišḥ ^w iiʔaqsup | Hesquiaht female |
| | ʔaaḥuusʔath | Ahousah | ʔaaḥuusʔaqsup | Ahousah female |
| | ʔaʔuuk ^w iʔath | Tla-o-qui-aht | ʔaʔuuk ^w iʔaqsup | Tla-o-qui-aht female |
| | yuuḥuʔiʔath | Ucluelet | yuuḥuʔiʔaqsup | Ucluelet female |

The endings *–!ath* and *–!aqsup* are hardening endings (signified by *!*). With some stems, these make the last sound of the stem hard (*–!ath*, *–!aqsup*). With other stems, the hardening is pronounced as a glottal stop (*–ʔath*, *–ʔaqsup*), or just disappears.

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| (8) | qaaʔyuuḥ | Easy Inlet | muwač | deer |
| | qaaʔyuuḥ ^w ath | Kyuquot person | muwačath | Mowachah person |
| | qaaʔyuuḥ ^w aqsup | Kyuquot female | muwačaqsup | Mowachah female |

You will learn more about hardening in later lessons.

∞ **Exercise 2.** Build the following tribal names. For each name, say the name alone, then with the ending *-!ath*, then with *-!aqsup*.

huuʔii, huupačas, čišaa, λaʔuuk^{wi}, ʔaaḥuus, ḥišk^{wii}, muwač, ʔiiḥatis, qaayuuḥ

Example. huuʔii (name), huuʔiiʔath ‘Hu-ay-aht’, huuʔiiʔaqsup ‘Huu-ay-aht female’

The word *hiṣṭath* ‘from (tribe)’ contains the ending *-!ath*. To say what tribe you come from, use *hiṣṭath*, or add a mood ending directly to the name of your tribe.

- (9) hiṣṭaths ʔaaḥuus. I am Ahousaht.
 hiṣṭaths ʔaaḥuusʔath. I am Ahousaht.
 ʔaaḥuusʔaths. I am Ahousaht.
 ʔaaḥuusʔaqsup. I am an Ahousaht female.

∞ **Exercise 3.** With a group, take turns introducing yourselves. Say your name, your tribe, and your parents. Prompt the next person by asking *ʔačaqḥak* ‘Who are you?’

5.9. Test yourself

After finishing this lesson, you should be able to say these things in Nuu-chah-nulth.

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| 1. It’s me! | 9. My name is Samantha. |
| 2. Can I help you? | 10. Who is that man? |
| 3. Please help me. | 11. He’s George. |
| 4. Who are you? | 12. His name is George. |
| 5. My mother is Mamie. | 13. I don’t know what he’s called. |
| 6. I’m from Ucluelet. | 14. I don’t know him. |
| 7. I’m Hupacasath. | 15. Thank you. |
| 8. What’s your name? | 16. I love you. |