

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’ (*-’tana*)
- to be able to use the ending *-?aλ* when discussing weather

6.2. Conversations

1A	<i>?uuqumḥi?iš.</i>	It’s nice weather.
2B	<i>?aani?iš ?uuqumḥi.</i>	It sure is nice weather.
2A	<i>λupaah.</i>	Is it hot?
2B	<i>haa, λupaa?iš.</i>	Yes, it’s hot.
2B	<i>wik?iis λupaa. małaa?iš.</i>	It’s not hot. It’s cold.
3A	<i>?aaqinḥ ḥaas?ii.</i>	How’s the weather?
3B	<i>milaa?iš.</i>	It’s raining.
3B	<i>hayumḥis q^waa?aλii ḥaas?ii.</i>	I don’t know how the weather is.
4A	<i>ḥaši?i q^waa?aλii ḥaas?ii.</i>	Look how the weather is.
4B	<i>yu?itana?iš.</i>	It’s a little windy.
4B	<i>?iih?iis k^wisaa!</i>	It’s really snowing!

6.3. Words

<i>?uuqumḥi</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>ḥaas</i>	day, weather
<i>małaa</i>	cold weather	<i>?aaqin</i>	how
<i>λupaa</i>	hot weather	<i>q^waa</i>	how it is
<i>λupaa</i>	sunny	<i>?iih</i>	big
<i>ḥiwahak</i>	cloudy	<i>?ačknaḥ?is</i>	small
<i>milaa</i>	raining	<i>ḥašiλ</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>?uqumḥi</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) ʔuuqumḥi-ḥ. Is it calm? ʔuuqumḥi-ʔiṣ. It's calm.
 ʔučqak-ḥ. Is it foggy? ʔučqak-ʔiṣ. It's foggy.

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

ʔupaa	míʔaa	ʔuuqumḥi	kʷisaa	ʔuuʔuuquk	wiiqsii
ʔučqak	máʔaa	yuʔi	hiwəhək	wiiwiiquk	ʔupaa

Example. wiiqsii 'stormy', wiiqsiiḥ. 'Is it stormy?', wiiqsiiʔiṣ. 'It's stormy.'

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

- (3) kʷisaa-ʔiṣ. It's snowing. wikʔiṣ kʷisaa. It isn't snowing.
 yuʔi-ʔiṣ. It's windy. wikʔiṣ yuʔi. It isn't windy.

Mood endings go after the first word of their sentence. If *-ʔiṣ* follows a one-syllable stem (like *wik* or *ʔiiḥ*), then it is said *-ʔiṣ*, 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. hiwəhəkḥ. 'Is it cloudy?' B. haa, hiwəhəkʔiṣ. 'Yes, it's cloudy.'

Example. A. míʔaaḥ. 'Is it raining?' B. wik, wikʔiṣ míʔaa. 'No, it isn't raining'

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

The word *ʔiiḥ* means 'big' or 'very'. The ending *-tana* means 'a little bit'.

- (4) ʔiiḥ-ʔiṣ ʔaḥiqs. It's a big box.
 ʔiiḥ-ʔiṣ máʔaa. It's very cold.
 ʔačknaḥʔis-ʔiṣ nəčaaʔyak. It's a small book.
 ʔupaa-tana-ʔiṣ. 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. yuʔitanaʔiṣ. 'It's a little windy.' ʔiiḥʔiṣ yuʔi. '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-ʔiʕ.	It's calm.	ʔuuqumḥi-ʔaʕ-ʔiʕ.	It's calm now.
	kʷisaa-ḥ.	Is it snowing?	kʷisaa-ʔaʕ-ḥ.	Is it snowing now?
	wiiqsii-ḥ.	Is it stormy?	wiiqsii-ʔaʕ-ḥ.	Is it stormy now?
	ʔiiḥ-ʔiiʕ yuʔi.	It's very windy.	ʔiiḥ-ʔaʕ-ʔiiʕ 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-ʔiʕ.	It's foggy.	ʔučqakʰ-aʕ-ʔiʕ.	It's foggy now.
	wik-ʔiiʕ ḥiwahak.	It isn't cloudy.	wikʰ-aʕ-ʔiiʕ ḥiwahak.	It isn't cloudy now.
	ʔuuʔuuquk-ḥ.	Is it nice?	ʔuuʔuuqukʷ-aʕ-ḥ.	Is it nice now?
	wiiwiiquk-ʔiʕ.	It's nasty.	wiiwiiqukʷ-aʕ-ʔiʕ.	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.

ʔuuqumḥiḥ.	Is it calm?	ḥiwahakʔiʕ.	It's cloudy.
kʷisaaʔiʕ.	It's snowing.	ʔučqakḥ.	Is it foggy?
wiiwiiqukḥ.	Is it nasty?	ʔiiḥʔiiʕ ʔučqak.	It's very foggy.

Example. ʔuuqumḥiḥ. ‘Is it calm?’ ʔuuqumḥiʔaʕḥ. ‘Is it calm now?’

When the endings -ʔana and -ʔaʕ appear in the same word, they contract to -ʔanaʕ.

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

ʔaaqinʔaʕḥ ḥaasʔii.	How is the day now?
ʔiiḥʔaʕʔiʕ ʔuuqumḥi.	It's very calm now.
wiiqsiiʔanaʕʔiʕ.	It's a little stormy now.
ʔiiḥʔiiʕ kʷisaa.	It's very snowy.
ʔučqaktanaʔiʕ.	It's a little foggy.
ḥaʕiʔi qʷaaʔaʕii ḥaasʔii.	Look at how the day is now.
ʔiiḥʔaʕḥ ʕupaa.	Is it very sunny now?
miʕaatanaʕʔiʕ.	It's raining a little now.

You can talk about different places using *ʔaḥkuu* ‘here’ and *ḥuuʔaḥi* ‘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 *hiłqḥ ʔiiḥʔii λiisuwił* at the big school
ḥuuʔaḥi over there *hiłqḥ ʔačknaḥʔisʔi λiisuwił* at the little school

Example. A. *ʔaaqinḥ náasʔii ḥuuʔaḥi.* ‘How is the weather over there?’

Example. B. *ʔiiḥʔaλʔiš hiwahaḥ ʔaḥkuu.* ‘It’s very cloudy here.’

6.7. Test yourself

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

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