

## 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<sup>w</sup>aa?aλii ḥaas?ii.</i> | I don’t know how the weather is. |
| 4A | <i>ḥaši?i q<sup>w</sup>aa?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<sup>w</sup>isaa!</i>            | It’s really snowing!             |

### 6.3. Words

|                        |                   |                                |              |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>?uuqumḥi</i> .....  | calm weather      | <i>k<sup>w</sup>isaa</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<sup>w</sup>aa</i> .....   | how it is    |
| <i>λupaa</i> .....     | sunny             | <i>?iih</i> .....              | big          |
| <i>hiwahak</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     | hiwahaḥak | 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. hiwahaḥakḥ. 'Is it cloudy?' B. haa, hiwahaḥakʔiṣ. '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 náčaaʔyak. 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 *-ʔaλ*

The ending *-ʔaλ* 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-ʔiṣ.   | It’s calm.       | ʔuuqumḥi-ʔaλ-ʔiṣ.  | It’s calm now.       |
|     | kʷisaa-ḥ.       | Is it snowing?   | kʷisaa-ʔaλ-ḥ.      | Is it snowing now?   |
|     | wiiqsii-ḥ.      | Is it stormy?    | wiiqsii-ʔaλ-ḥ.     | Is it stormy now?    |
|     | ʔiiḥ-ʔiiṣ yuʔi. | It’s very windy. | ʔiiḥ-ʔaλ-ʔiṣ yuʔi. | It’s very windy now. |

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

|     |                   |                  |                      |                      |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| (6) | ʔučqak-ʔiṣ.       | It’s foggy.      | ʔučqak-ʔaλ-ʔiṣ.      | It’s foggy now.      |
|     | wik-ʔiiṣ ḥiwahak. | It isn’t cloudy. | wik-ʔaλ-ʔiṣ ḥiwahak. | It isn’t cloudy now. |
|     | ʔuuʔuuquk-ḥ.      | Is it nice?      | ʔuuʔuuqukʷ-ʔaλ-ḥ.    | Is it nice now?      |
|     | wiiwiiquk-ʔiṣ.    | It’s nasty.      | wiiwiiqukʷ-ʔaλ-ʔiṣ.  | It’s nasty now.      |

The rounding of *k* to *kʷ* in *ʔuuʔuuqukʷaλ*, *wiiwiiqukʷaλ* 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 *-ʔaλ*.

|             |               |                  |                  |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| ʔuuqumḥiḥ.  | Is it calm?   | ḥiwahakʔiṣ.      | It’s cloudy.     |
| kʷisaaʔiṣ.  | It’s snowing. | ʔučqakḥ.         | Is it foggy?     |
| wiiwiiqukḥ. | Is it nasty?  | ʔiiḥʔiiṣ ʔučqak. | It’s very foggy. |

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

When the endings *-tana* and *-ʔaλ* appear in the same word, they contract to *-tanaλ*.

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

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ʔaaqinʔaλḥ ḥaasʔii.       | How is the day now?         |
| ʔiiḥʔaλʔiṣ ʔuuqumḥi.      | It’s very calm now.         |
| wiiqsiiʔanaλʔiṣ.          | It’s a little stormy now.   |
| ʔiiḥʔiiṣ kʷisaa.          | It’s very snowy.            |
| ʔučqaktanaʔiṣ.            | It’s a little foggy.        |
| ḥaṣiʔi qʷaaʔaλii ḥaasʔii. | Look at how the day is now. |
| ʔiiḥʔaλḥ λupaa.           | Is it very sunny now?       |
| miλaatanaλʔiṣ.            | 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 ʔačknahʔisʔi 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!