

Unit 8. ʔuušwaayak • ʔuušwaačak • ʔuušwaačk • Sentences

8.1. Overview

In this unit, learners will work towards mastering the following skills.

- to understand the structure of simple sentences
- to learn some common action words
- to use the article mood (–ʔi)
- to distinguish words for ‘how’ from words for ‘doing’

Words

ḥaak ^w aaλ.....	young woman	λakaas TQ	standing
ḥaathaa ^w aλ.....	young women	λakiił BHTQ	standing (indoors)
ḥaawı̄aλ	young man	λatwaa	paddling
ḥaawı̄iḥaλ	young men	λiḥaa	(vehicle) going
ćix ^w atin.....	eagle	λiiḥak ⁽⁺⁾	paddling
čims	black bear	mamuuk	working
čapac	canoe	mataa	flying
huupuk ^w as	car, truck	nunuuk.....	singing
matuk	airplane	ñaacsa.....	seeing it
maʔakλiqs*	speedboat	suu.....	holding it
haʔuk.....	eating	susaa.....	swimming
huyaał	dancing	yaacuk.....	walking
huułhuuła.....	dancing	waʔič	sleeping
kamatquk	running	ʔaaqinʔap	doing what (direct)
kumaa	pointing	q ^w aaʔap	doing (what) (indirect)

Conversations

- 1A ʔaaqinʔaph ćix^watinʔi..... What is the eagle doing?
 1B mataaʔiś ćix^watinʔi..... The eagle is flying.
 1B hayumḥisiś q^waaʔapii..... I don't know what it's doing.
- 2A ʔaaqinʔaph..... What is he, she, it doing?
 2B kamatqukʔiś ḥaak^waaλʔi..... The young woman is running.
 2B nunuukʔiś ḥaawı̄aλʔi..... The young man is singing.
 2B λiiḥakʔiś ḥuucmaʔi..... The woman is paddling.
 2B huułhuułaʔiś čakupʔi..... The man is dancing.

8.2. Notes

In order to communicate in Nuuchahnulth, you must speak in sentences. A *sentence* is one or more words that convey a complete idea. Most sentences are also clauses.

A *clause* is a combination of a predicate, participants, and mood. The *participants* are the people or things that the clause is about. The most important participant is called the *subject*. The *predicate* is an event or description that the participants are involved in. A *mood ending* completes the clause, agrees with its subject, and conveys other information as well.

Every clause includes a predicate and mood ending. They cannot be left out. But the participants can be left out, if they are already understood.

(1)

clause		
predicate	–mood ending	(participants)

In English, the first thing in a sentence is usually the subject, which is the most important participant. But in Nuuchahnulth, the first word is usually the predicate.

(2)

predicate	mood	participants	
?aaqin?ap	–ḥa.		What is he, she, it doing?
ḥaacsá	–ma	čakup?i čims.	The man sees a bear.
na?aa	–maḥ	suwá.	I hear you.
λuł	–maa	yaa ḥiniiλ?i.	That's a good dog.
čims	–maa	yee.	That's a bear over there.
yeel	–maa	čims?ii.	The bear is over there.
hitinqis	–ma	nani.	Grandpa is at the beach.
na?aataḥ	–?i	nani.	Listen to Grandma.

**Unit 9. q^wismiḥsapatii • q^wismaḥsapatii •
q^wismaḥsapati • q^wismaḥsaqḷptii* • Commands**

9.1. Overview

In this unit, learners will work towards mastering the following skills.

- to use and respond to simple commands
- to correctly pronounce the effects of hardening (!)
- to distinguish continuous (CT), complete (CP), and repetitive (RP) aspect forms

Words

haʔukšiš.....start eating	q ^w is.....do so
huułšiš.....start dancing	suk ^w iš.....take it
kamatqšiš.....start running	tuxšiš.....jump
kupšiš.....point	tuuxtux ^w a.....jumping
ḷakišiš.....stand up	ṭiq ^w aasiš.....sit down on (platform)
ḷiiḥšiš.....start paddling	wiinaḷ.....stop going
ḷupkšiš.....wake up	yaacšiš.....start walking
ḷułšiš.....touch it	waʔičuš.....go to sleep
matšiš.....start flying	ʔucačiš.....go to
nuuʔiš.....start singing	ḷaakšiš.....please
našiš.....look at	ʔuuq ^w aa.....also, too

Conversations

- 1A ṭiq^waasiʔi. Sit down.
 1B čuu, ṭiq^waasišḷaḷsiš. Okay, I'll sit down.
- 2A naʔaataḥʔis. Listen to me.
 2B čuu, naʔaataḥʔaḷsiš suutiḷ. Okay, I'll listen to you.
- 3A nuuʔiʔaḷin. Let's start singing now.
 3B čuu, nuuʔiḷḷaḷniš. Okay, we'll sing now.

9.2. Notes

The command mood (*–!i*) is used to tell someone to do something. The exclamation point (!) represents hardening, which hardens the preceding sound, or is pronounced as a glottal stop (?). In Q, this stop can disappear.

(1)	wik	N	wikii.			Don't!
	suu	N	suu?ii.			Hold it!
	waa	B	wee?ii.	CTQ	waa?ii.	Say it!
	na?aataḥ	BCT	na?aataḥ?i.	Q	na?aathi.	Listen!

Aspect is an important grammatical category that has to do with the shape of events, and how smaller events fit into larger events. English verbs have up to three different aspect forms: plain, progressive, and perfect. Aspect is different from tense.

(2)	plain aspect	We speak.	We spoke.
	progressive aspect	We are speaking.	We were speaking.
	perfect aspect	We have spoken.	We had spoken.

Nuuchahnulth verbs occur in up to five aspects. The most important of these are the continuous (CT) and complete (CP) aspects.¹

(3)	CT	q ^w aa?ap	doing	suu	holding it	wawaa ^(d)	saying it
	CP	q ^w is	do	suk ^w iλ	take it	waa	say it
	CT	mataa	flying	nunuuk	singing	yaacuk	walking
	CP	matšiλ	start flying	nuu?iλ	start singing	yaacšiλ	start walking

The next most important aspect is the repetitive (RP) aspect.²

(4)	CT	mitx ^w aa	rotating	tuux ^w api ^(d)	jumping
	RP	miitxmiitx ^w a ^(d)	rotating	tuuxt ^w uux ^w a ^(d)	jumping
	CP	mitxšiλ	rotate	tuxšiλ	jump
	CT	huyaał	dancing	ciqaa	speaking
	RP	huułhuuła ^(d)	dancing	ciiqciqa ^(d)	speaking
	CP	huułšiλ	start dancing	ciqšiλ	start speaking

In order to gain an understanding of aspect, it might help to think of them in terms of the following symbols or paraphrases.

¹ Q forms: huwaa 'saying'.

² Q forms: miitxmiitx^w(a), tuux^wap(a), tuuxt^wuux^w(a), huułhuuł(a), ciiqciqa(a).

(5)	aspect	symbol	paraphrase
	continuous	~	'doing without beginning or end'
	repetitive	•••	'doing repeatedly'
	complete	•	'do and be done', or 'start doing'