

Unit 11. ʕaaʕaatiqa • ʕaaʕaataq • Thanks

11.1. Overview

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

- to give thanks appropriately for gifts, food, and hospitality
- to make sentences with complex predicates and embedded clauses
- to use causative and passive endings in prayers and requests

Words

maa	Here you go.	ʕuyii	give it to
ʕeekoo	Thank you.	qaacii.....	give it to
maaxtaqʕiʕ T.....	do a good deed	hinata	invite it
ʕaaphiisiʕa	do something kind	hahiʕ.....	invite it along
ʕuuʕnaak	valuing it, grateful*	haaʕin.....	calling, inviting
ʕuuʕʕakʕiʕ.....	be useful	haaʕawiiqʕ	invite it to a meal
ʕatiqʕiʕ.....	thank, acknowledge	siqiiʕ	cooking
ʕatiʕaqʕ.....	grateful	haʕum	food, CTQ delicious
ʕimqstup.....	make it happy	ʕamas	sweet, B delicious
ʕuuʕaqstup B.....	make it (m) happy	hinatʕiʕ	come to
ʕuuqsuuqstup B.....	make it (f) happy	ʕawiiʕiʕ.....	go close to
ʕuʕ.....	good, beautiful	ʕawaʕi.....	go close to
ʕuyaʕiʕ.....	become good	naaʕuuqsta	participating
hiʕnaqsti	spirit	ʕayaʕuʕaaʕ.....	Welcome!
hiniʕ.....	give it to	ʕuʕmaaʕa B	welcome warmly

Conversations

- 1A maa..... Here you go.
 1B ʕuu..... Acknowledged.
 1B ʕuuʕʕakʕiʕʕick..... Thank you.
 1B ʕaaphiisiʕaʕick. Thank you.
 1B ʕimqstupʕick siiʕiʕ. Thank you.
 1B ʕatiʕaqʕʕiʕ suutiʕ. Thank you.
 1B ʕeekoo waasiʕ suutiʕ. Thank you.
 2A ʕaʕkuuʕakʕick. Here you go.
 2A suʕaasʕaʕʕick ʕaʕ. This is yours now.
 2A ʕuyiimaʕsasiʕ ʕaʕ suutiʕ. I want to give you this.
 2A ʕatiqʕiʕʕatʕick ʕaʕkuu..... You are acknowledged with this.

- 2B čuu.....Acknowledged.
 2B ʔuušćakšičiʔick hinii siičič. * Thank you for giving me it.
 2B ʔatiqšičiʔiš suutič.I thank, acknowledge you.
 3A haʔukšičiʔaʔič!.....Start eating!
 3B ʔuušćakšičiʔick haʔuk^wap siičič. Thank you for feeding me.
 3B ʔeekoo waasiiš yaqitiiʔaʔ siqiič. *I thank those who cooked.
 3B haʔumʔakʔick haʔum. Your food is delicious.
 4A ʔayaḥuʔaaʔ!..... Welcome!
 4A ʔuyačičiʔatsiš ḥimāqsti ʔin ʔawaʔisuuk. * ..I'm happy that you've come.
 4B ʔuušćakšičiʔick ḥiʔap siičič..... Thank you for having me.
 4B ʔuušćakšičiʔick hinata siičič. * Thank you for inviting me.

Conversation 1 provides several ways to say ‘thank you’, from informal to formal, using a situation of giving as an example. One important lesson to learn is that we say ‘thank you’ a lot less in Nuuchahnulth than we do in English. But when we do, there are many ways to give thanks, depending on the situation.

Next, conversations 2 through 4 exemplify thanks for gifts, food, and hospitality. Some of these sentences are formal, especially those using BCT ʔatiqšičiʔiš, Q ʔataqšičiʔiš.

The word BCT ʔeekoo, Q ʔaakoo varies in formality across dialects. Roughly speaking, it is considered rather formal in the middle of the coast, but is a more everyday word in the north and south. Ask your elders how this word is used in your community.

If you want a safe thank you that is appropriate in most situations, we recommend B ʔuušćakšičiʔick, C ʔuušćakšičiʔick, T maaxtaqšičiʔick, Q ʔaakoo.

When you are thanked in the Nuuchahnulth way, the most important thing is to listen. You do not need to say anything in response, but if you do respond, it is usually enough to say čuu. There is no Nuuchahnulth expression for ‘you’re welcome’.

11.2. Notes and exercises

The basic thanks in conversation 1 are more meaningful than English *thank you*.

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|---|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| O | Q /maaxtaq-šičiʔ-ʔiʔc/ | maaxtaqšičiʔick. | You have done a good deed. |
| | T /maaxtaq-šičiʔ-ʔiʔc/ | maaxtaqšičiʔick. | You have done a good deed. |
| | C /ʔuuš-ćak-šičiʔ-ʔiʔck/ | ʔuušćakšičiʔick. | You have been useful. |
| | B /ʔuuš-ćak-šičiʔ-(m)eʔic/ | ʔuušćakšičiʔick. | You have been useful. |

- ∞ Analysis. Practise the basic thanks in conversation 1. Break them into their meaningful parts to understand what they are really saying. Some expressions are things that 'I' do to 'you', while others are the reverse. Which are which?

If your first language is English, then you probably say *thank you* many times a day. You may find that it takes time to break this habit. In Nuuchahnulth, the word *čuu*, or even silence, is often appropriate where you would say *thanks* in English.

- ∞ maa, čuu. Level 1. With a partner, practise handing things back and forth to each other, saying *maa, čuu* as appropriate. Level 2. Use sentences from conversation 2 to model various situations of giving. Partner B responds appropriately to A, with the proper level of formality.

The B side responses in conversation 3 are especially worth memorizing, because you will have many opportunities to use these, whenever someone feeds you. Do not be shy to give thanks for food! Our elders tell us that it is always appropriate to do so.

- ∞ Thanks for food. With a partner or alone, take turns standing up and giving thanks to those who feed you. Speak loudly. Don't be shy!