

**nučaałʔath̄ nuučaañuł\***

**A Handbook of  
Nuchatlaht Nuu-chah-nulth**

---

\* 2020/07/21 note: This version of *A Handbook of Nuchatlaht Nuu-chah-nulth* is identical to the 2014 version, except that it has been reformatted to be printed one-up portrait-style, rather than booklet-style.

nučaałʔatḥ nuučaañuł

A Handbook of Nuchatlaht Nuuchah-nulth

© 2011 Nuchatlaht First Nation

Upper Level #10, Oclucje, BC Canada

Box 40, Zeballos, BC V0P 2A0 Canada

Contributing elders: Alban Michael, Josephine George, Fidelia Haiyupis, Martin John, Tony John, and Millie Smith. Written by Adam Werle.

The work was supported by a 2011–2012 British Columbia Language Initiative grant, and by Nuchatlaht First Nation. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Ehattesaht-Chinehkint Tribe, of Ka:’yu:’k’t’h’-Che:k’tles7et’h’ First Nations, and the efforts of many individuals. This version was revised in 2013 and 2014.

łaaakooʔicuuš.

## Contents

Introduction.....	4
The Nuu-chah-nulth alphabet .....	5
Prayer .....	8
Greetings .....	10
Introducing yourself.....	11
Weather .....	12
Hospitality .....	13
Advanced: Short sentences.....	14
Advanced: Person endings .....	16
Nuu-chah-nulth classified wordlist .....	19

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this handbook is to give Nuchatlaht people greater access their language. We have designed it to be small and easy to carry around, and the information that it contains to be easy to find. It can be used for personal reference, and to support group language lessons.

The handbook begins by introducing the Nuu-chah-nulth alphabet, then provides some common conversational phrases that are useful in daily life, concerning such topics as prayers, greetings, introductions, and the weather.

At the end of the book, there is a classified wordlist of basic and common Nuu-chah-nulth vocabulary. Last, the back cover of the book provides a quick key to pronouncing the letters of the Nuu-chah-nulth alphabet.

This is the first introduction to the Nuu-chah-nulth language that is made specifically for Nuchatlaht people. We hope that it will be the first of many.

čuu.

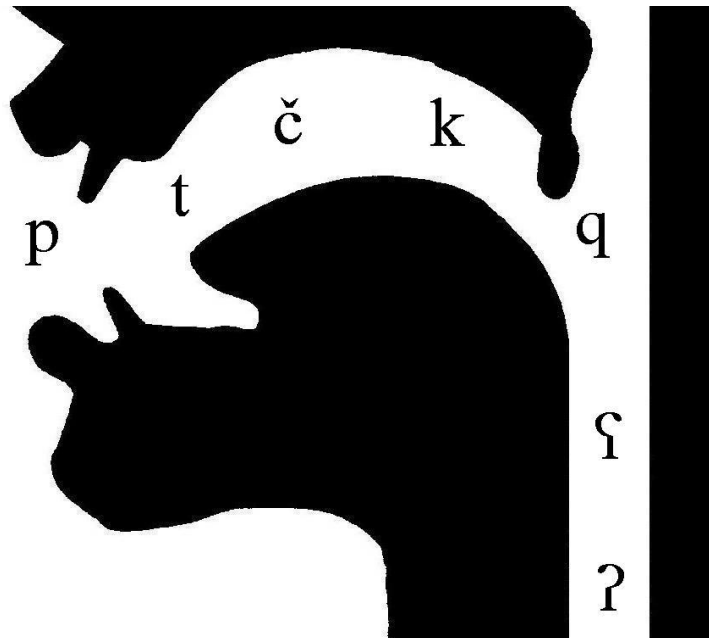
## The Nuu-chah-nulth alphabet

The Nuu-chah-nulth alphabet has forty-five letters:

a	aa	c	ć	č	č̣	e	ee	h
ḥ	i	ii	k	k <sup>w</sup>	ḱ	ḱ <sup>w</sup>	ł	λ
ł̣	m	ṃ	n	ṇ	o	oo	p	p̣
q	q <sup>w</sup>	s	š	t	ṭ	u	uu	w
ẉ	x	x <sup>w</sup>	x̣	x̣ <sup>w</sup>	y	ỵ	ʔ	ʔ̣

Vowels can be short or long. Long vowels are written with double letters (*aa, ii, uu*), and are pronounced about twice as long as short vowels.

Nuu-chah-nulth has more consonant sounds than English. Nuu-chah-nulth consonants are made at several places along the vocal tract, from the lips to the vocal cords. This diagram illustrates where Nuu-chah-nulth consonants are made, using *p, t, č, k, q, ʔ, ʔ̣* as examples:



The following list gives each letter of the alphabet, its name, and illustrates it in the context of a basic vocabulary word.

For more information on how to pronounce each letter, see the back cover of this book, or the pronunciation guide *How to Pronounce the Nuu-chah-nulth Alphabet*.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>English</b>
a	short a	patpat	inboard motor boat
aa	long a	waa	say
c	plain c	caapin	sawbill duck
č	hard c	čawaak	one
č̣	c wedge	čakup	man
č̣̣	hard c wedge	č̣apac	canoe
e	short e	—	—
ee	long e	ʔeekoo	Thank you.
h	h	husmin	kelp
ḥ	back h	ḥayu	ten
i	short i	hisit	sockeye salmon
ii	long i	tiičma	heart
k	k	kaapap	like
k <sup>w</sup>	round k	k <sup>w</sup> istuup	something different
ḳ	hard k	ḳaaʔin	crow
ḳ <sup>w</sup>	hard round k	ḳ <sup>w</sup> iis	snow
ł	barred l	łuucma	woman
λ	barred lambda	λanat	splitting wedge
λ̣	hard barred lambda	λ̣isuk	white
m	m	muu	four
ṃ	hard m	ṃaayi	salmonberry shoots
n	n	nunuuk	sing
ṇ	hard n	ṇaas	day, Creator

o	short o	—	—
oo	long o	ʔaakoo	Thank you.
p	p	paasak	damp
p̣	hard p	p̣ap̣ii	ear
q	q	qawii	salmonberry
q <sup>w</sup>	round q	q <sup>w</sup> inii	seagull
s	s	saasin	hummingbird
š	s wedge	šaapšaapš	umbrella
t	t	tupkak	black
ṭ	hard t	ṭaṭuus	star
u	short u	tukuuk	sea lion
uu	long u	tuunuu	win
w	w	wik	no, not
ẉ	hard w	ẉaaʔak	shy
x	front x	xaaʔamin	ladder
x <sup>w</sup>	round front x	x <sup>w</sup> akak	swollen
x̣	back x	x̣ax̣aškuk	pilot biscuit
x̣ <sup>w</sup>	round back x	x̣ <sup>w</sup> itaayu	knife
y	y	yačaa	dogfish
ỵ	hard y	ỵaṁa	salal berry
ʔ	glottal stop	ʔaama	loon
ʕ	pharyngeal stop	ʕaanis	crane

There are no example words for short *e* and *o* because these vowels are rare in Nuchatlaht and other northern dialects.

The word ʔaakoo, ʔeekoo, meaning *thank you*, can be pronounced either with a long *aa* or a long *ee*.

## Prayer

ḥaʔapi ḥaʔaaʔ..... O Creator!  
taakšiʔis kutiic. .... Always guide me.  
čuu..... Amen.

ʔaakʔaak<sup>w</sup>as suutiʔ. .... I am pleading with you.  
tiičʔapis. .... Let me live.  
ʔuʔaʔuk<sup>w</sup>is. .... Look after me.

ʔaanaat q<sup>w</sup>aaʔat, ḥaʔapi ḥaʔwiʔ. .... This is how it is, Creator.  
suʔaasiik ʔaas. .... The day is yours.  
ʔapʔii q<sup>w</sup>aaʔakiik ʔaas. .... Your day is proper.  
ʔaakoo, ḥaʔapi ḥaʔwiʔ. .... Thank you, Creator.  
ʔaakooʔic. .... Thank you.

ciciqinks suutiʔ..... I am praying to you.  
ʔaakšiʔis hupii. .... Please help me.  
hupiiʔis ʔuuḥtaasa. .... Help me to do right.  
hupiiʔis nanaʔa. .... Help me to understand.  
ʔaakšiʔis ʔuʔaʔuk. .... Please look after me.  
čamiḥtaʔpis tiič. .... Let me be healthy.  
ʔeekoo ʔin tiičʔapik siičiʔ. .... Thank you for my life.

## Words

ciciqink .....	pray	ʔuʔaʔuk.....	look after
ʔaakšiʔ .....	please	taakšiʔ .....	always
ʔaakʔaak <sup>w</sup> a.....	plead	čuu .....	amen
hupii .....	help	ʔaas.....	day, Creator
kutiic .....	guide	ḥaʔapi ḥaʔwiʔ ...	Creator
tiič .....	alive	ḥaʔapi ḥaʔaaʔ..	O Creator!



## Advanced

Prayers are often phrased as respectful commands to the Creator. Simple commands take the ending *-ʔi*. Commands to do something to *me* take the ending *-ʔis*.

łaakšiʔi ʔuʔaałuk...	Please look after...
łaakšiʔis hupii.	Please help me.
čamiḥtaḥis tiič.	Let me be healthy.
huʔayiʔi ciciqiʔakqin.	Give us back our language

There are several ways to use the word *łaakoo* *thank you*. Some speakers say *łaakoo*, while others say *łaekoo*. Some also use it with the endings *-ʔic* *you*, *-ʔicuuš* *you all*.

łaakoo.	Thank you.
łaekoo.	Thank you.
łaakooʔic.	Thank you.
łaakooʔicuuš.	Thank you all.

We hope that you will use the examples in this section to make your own prayers.

## Greetings

šah'yutk q<sup>w</sup>aa.....Are you okay?  
wiikšhink q<sup>w</sup>aa.....Are you okay?  
haa, šah'yuts. .... Yes, I'm okay.  
haa, wiikšhins. .... Yes, I'm okay.  
haa, šaah'yutsas. .... Yes, I'm very fine.

?aaqink. ....How are you?  
hawiiqλk. ....Are you hungry?  
naqmiihak.....Are you thirsty?  
hawiiqλs. ....I'm hungry.  
naqmiihas. ....I'm thirsty.  
pufał?atus.....I'm sleepy.  
p'usaaks. ....I'm worn out.  
ta?iłs. ....I'm sick.

?aaqin?apk.....What are you doing?  
mamuuks. ....I'm working.  
?uuñakuḥ ṅačałcu'yak. ....I'm watching TV.  
yačaswıtass. ....I'm going to go to town.

## Words

šah'yut.....	okay	pufał?atu...	sleepy
wiikšhin....	okay	p'usaak.....	worn out
?aaqin.....	how	ta?ił.....	sick
?aaqin?ap..	do what	?uuñakuḥ ..	watch
hawiiqλ....	hungry	mamuuk....	work
naqmiiḥa...	thirsty	yačas.....	go to town

## Introducing yourself

ʔačaqłak.....What's your name?

ʔukłaaš \_\_. ....My name is \_\_.

ʔukłaašiš \_\_.....My name is \_\_.

ʔukłaaʔiis \_\_. ....My name is \_\_.

ńuʔwiiqsaks Matthew. ....My father is Matthew.

ʔuḥuks ńuʔwiiqsu Matthew. ....My father is Matthew.

ʔumʔiiqsaks Bonnie.....My mother is Bonnie.

naniiqsaks George.....My grandfather is George.

naniiqsakints Ellie.....My grandmother was Ellie.

ʔuḥuk<sup>w</sup>ints naniiqsu Ellie. ....My grandmother was Ellie.

nučaałʔaṭš.....I am Nuchatlaht.

nučaałʔaṭšiiis.....I am Nuchatlaht.

nučaałʔaqsups.....I am a Nuchatlaht woman.

hiṣṭaṭš nučaał.....I am Nuchatlaht.

hiṣṭaṭšiiis nučaał. ....I am Nuchatlaht.

## Words

ńuʔwiiqsu .....father

ʔumʔiiqsu.....mother

naniiqsu .....grandparent

hiṣṭaṭš.....be from

nučaałʔaṭš ....Nuchatlaht

ʔiiḥatisʔaṭš ....Ehattesaht

qaaʔuuk<sup>w</sup>aṭš.. Kyuquot

čiiqłisʔaṭš..... Checleseht

muwačaṭš ..... Mowachaht

mačłaaṭš ..... Muchalaht

ḥišk<sup>w</sup>iiʔaṭš..... Hesquiaht

ʔaaḥuusʔaṭš .. Ahousaht

## Weather

?aaqinḥ náas?ii. ....How's the weather?  
 ?upaah. ....Is it hot weather? Is it sunny?  
 mí?aaḥ. ....Is it raining?  
 wik?iiš ?upa. ....It isn't hot. It isn't sunny.  
 wik?iiš mí?aa. ....It isn't raining.  
 ?uuqumḥi?iḥ. ....It's calm weather.  
 wiiqsii?iḥ. ....It's stormy weather.

### Words

náas ..... day, Creator	yu?i ..... windy
?aaqin ..... how	?učqak ..... foggy
má?aa ..... cold weather	mí?aa ..... raining
?upa ..... hot weather	k <sup>w</sup> isaa ..... snowing
?upa ..... sunny	?uuqumḥi .. calm weather
ḥiwáḥyu ..... cloudy	wiiqsii ..... stormy

### Advanced

Use the question mood endings to ask questions. Use the strong mood endings to make statements. (See page 16.)

Stem	Question	Statement
má?aa	má?aaḥ.	má?aa?iḥ.
?upa	?upaah.	?upa?iḥ.
ḥiwáḥyu	ḥiwáḥyuh.	ḥiwáḥyu?iḥ.
mí?aa	mí?aaḥ.	mí?aa?iḥ.
k <sup>w</sup> isaa	k <sup>w</sup> isaaḥ.	k <sup>w</sup> isaa?iḥ.
yu?i	yu?ih.	yu?i?iḥ.
?učqak	?učqakḥ.	?učqak?iḥ.
?uuqumḥi	?uuqumḥih.	?uuqumḥi?iḥ.
wiiqsii	wiiqsiiḥ.	wiiqsii?iḥ.

## Hospitality

wałyaqiłk. .... Is anyone home?

hini?i?i. .... Come in!

ču. .... Okay.

tiq<sup>w</sup>aasi?i. .... Sit down!

šahýutukk taatńa?is. .... Are your children okay?

waayıikšhin?akk taatńa?is. .... Are your children okay?

?aaqin?ałukkk taatńa?is. .... How are your children?

haaha, šahýut?iš?ał. .... Yes, they're okay.

čuk<sup>w</sup>aa. tii?iic?aqlniš. .... Come in, we'll have tea.

čuk<sup>w</sup>aa. k<sup>w</sup>aapi?ic?aqlniš. .... Come in, we'll have coffee.

?u?usumk šuuk<sup>w</sup>aa. .... Do you want sugar?

?uuħwáłk?ał šuuk<sup>w</sup>aa. .... Do you use sugar?

ču, yaacši?ałs. .... Okay, I'm going now.

ču, yaacaa?ałs. .... Okay, I'm going now.

ču, yaacšił?aqlałs. .... Okay, I'm going now.

ču. .... Okay, goodbye.

## Words

wałyaqił... at home

hini?i?i... go indoors

tiq<sup>w</sup>aasił.. sit down

yaacšił .... walk, leave

šahýut..... okay

wiikšhin... okay

?aaqin..... how

q<sup>w</sup>aa..... how

taatńa..... children

taatńa?is... little children

čuk<sup>w</sup>aa..... Come here.

tii ..... tea

tii?iic..... drink tea

k<sup>w</sup>aapii ..... coffee

k<sup>w</sup>aapi?ic.. drink coffee

?u?usum... want, need

?uuħwáł ... use

šuuk<sup>w</sup>aa .... sugar

### Advanced: Short sentences

ʔaaqinʔaph ʔawatinʔi.....What is the eagle doing?  
mataaʔiš ʔawatinʔi.....The eagle is flying.  
hayumhis q<sup>w</sup>aaʔapi. ....I don't know what it's doing.

ʔaaqinʔaph.....What is he, she, or it doing?  
pusaakʔiš haawilaʔi.....The young man is tired.  
kamitqukʔiš čumsʔii.....The black bear is running.  
kamitqukʔiš hucsaʔi. ....The girl is running.  
susaaʔiš maʔiʔqacʔi.....The boy is swimming.  
susaaʔiš suuḥaaʔi. ....The spring salmon is swimming.  
yaacukʔiš čakupʔi. ....The man is walking.  
yaacukʔiš muwačʔi. ....The deer is walking.  
čapaakʔiš čakupʔi. ....The man is going by canoe.  
latwaaʔiš huucmaʔi. ....The woman is paddling.  
pufaʔatuʔiš naʔaqakʔi. ....The baby is sleepy.  
waʔičʔiš čumsʔii. ....The black bear is sleeping.  
waʔičʔiš naʔaqakʔi. ....The baby is sleeping.

### Advanced

One way of analyzing the basic structure of a sentence is into a *predicate* and *participants*. The predicate is the event that the sentence is about. The participants are the people or things that are involved in that event.

Sentence	Predicate	Participants
She jumped.	jump	she
Ron saw Sue.	see (Sue)	Ron, Sue
The bear ate berries.	eat (berries)	bear, berries

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.

čamihtaʔiš quuʔas.  
*proper-he person*  
 He's a proper (good) person.

naʔaatahʔiš nuukćuuʔakʔi łucsacʔi.  
*listen-she mp3 player-her-the girl-the*  
 The girl is listening to her mp3 player.

The strong mood ending -ʔiiš has a long vowel only if its stem is one syllable long. Otherwise, its vowel is short (-ʔiš).

suu	hold	suuʔiiš.	He's holding it.
tiič	alive	tiičʔiiš.	He's alive.
ʔučqak	foggy	ʔučqakʔiš.	It's foggy.
ʔuʔusum	need	ʔuʔusumʔiš.	He needs some.

The article -ʔii means *the*. Similarly to -ʔiiš, the article has a long vowel (-ʔii) after a short stem, but a short vowel (-ʔi) after a long stem.

čums	bear	čumsʔii	the bear
ńaas	day	ńaasʔii	the day
maḥʔii	house	maḥʔiiʔi	the house
ʔawatin	eagle	ʔawatinʔi	the eagle

Now you know enough to make two-word sentences in Nuu-chah-nulth that consist of a predicate and a participant.

## Advanced: Person endings

A complete sentence in Nuuchahnulth usually requires a *mood ending* on its first word. This ending indicates the mood and subject of the sentence.

The *mood* is what the speaker is trying to accomplish, such as making a statement or asking a question. Each of these sentences uses a different mood.

sačkʔiiš xʷitaayu.	The knife is sharp.
miʎaamitwaʔiš.	I heard it rained.
tiičʰ siičpaaxʔi.	Is the cougar alive?
wikii qʷaaʔap.	Don't do that!

The subject is who the sentence is about. These examples have the same mood, but different subjects.

hawiiʔaʎs.	I'm finished.
hawiiʔaʎniš.	We're finished.
hawiiʔaʎʔic.	You're finished.
hawiiʔaʎʔicuuš.	You all are finished.
hawiiʔaʎʔiš.	He or she is finished.
hawiiʔaʎʔišʔaʎ.	They're finished.

Sentences inside other sentences take mood endings too.

kaamathakk qʷisintʔiq.	Do you know what he did?
hayumʰis yaqʎaayi.	I don't know his name.
čiitaanišʔaʎ ʎuʔičʰʔaʎqu.	We dig clams in the winter.

These charts lay out several of the most important moods.



Strong (indicative)

= si·š, =s	= ni·š
= ?i·c	= ?i·cu:š
= ?i·š	= ?i·š?ał

Hearsay (quotative)

= wa·?is	= wa·niš
= wa·?ic	= wa·?icu:š
= wa·?iš	= wa·?iš?ał

Question (interrogative)

= ɥs	= ɥin
= k	= ɥsu:
= ɥ	= ɥ?ał

Definite (definite relative)

= qs	= qin
= ?i·k	= ?i·qsu:
= ?i·q	= ?i·q?ał

Weak (indefinite relative)

= (y)i·s	= (y)in
= (y)i·k	= (y)i·su:
= (y)i·	= (y)i·?ał

Possible (conditional)

= qu·s	= qun
= qu·k	= qu·su:
= qu·	= qu·?ał

Article

= ?i·	= ?i·?ał
-------	----------

Hearsay article

= ča·	= ča·?ał
-------	----------

Unlike other moods, the command mood endings also give information about objects (*me, us, them*).

Command (imperative)

	me	us	them
you	= !i·	= !i·s	= !in
you all	= !i·č	—	= !i·č?ał
let's	= !in	—	= !in?ał

These mood charts use several symbols (= ! · :) that are not discussed in this book, but are useful to advanced learners.

Some speakers always pronounce the weak and possible mood endings with long vowels (written *V:*).

Weak (indefinite) 2		Possible (conditional) 2	
= (y)i:s	= (y)in	= qu:s	= qun
= (y)i:k	= (y)i:su:	= qu:k	= qu:su:
= (y)i:	= (y)i:ʔaʔ	= qu:	= qu:ʔaʔ

The strong mood is used for statements that are known to be true. The hearsay mood reports second-hand information.

ʔaḥʔaamits hiistmaʔ.	That's where I was born.
m̄aʔaaʔaʔwaʔiš.	It's cold. (Someone told me.)

The question mood is used to ask questions. The command mood is used in commands.

ʔaḳiichin.	What are we eating?
č̣amaʔiʔis čamas.	Give me dessert.

The definite mood goes on embedded sentences that describe something the speaker knows to exist. Compare the weak mood, which indicates uncertain information.

q <sup>w</sup> iyuqs ʔiisʔiisšiʔ	when I started school
hiʔʔiiq maʔas	where she lives
hayumḥis yaḳii.	I don't know who he is.

The weak mood has several uses, usually in embedded sentences. But some speakers use it for statements too, similarly to the strong mood.

ʔeekoo ʔin hiḥisuu.	Thank you all for being here.
waʔšiʔaʔiis.	I went home.
čaa, q <sup>w</sup> aacumyis hupii.	How can I help?

## Nuu-chah-nulth classified wordlist

### Actions

čapaak – go by canoe  
ciciqink – pray  
ciiqciqa – speak  
hawiiʔaλ – finish  
hayumḥi – not know  
histaqšiλ – come from  
hišsiik – finish  
huḥtik – know  
huuḥhuuḥa – dance  
kaamatḥak – know  
kamitquk – run  
λakaas – stand  
λakiiḥ – stand indoors  
λatwaa – paddle  
λiḥaa – vehicle goes  
λiisλiisa – write  
mamuuk – work  
mataa – flying  
ḥaacsaa – see  
ḥaacsuuḥ – watch  
ḥačaaḥ – read, look at  
ḥamiłšiλ – try  
naʔaa – hear  
naʔaataḥ – listen  
nunuuk – sing  
suu – hold  
susaa – swim  
tiq<sup>w</sup>aas – sit on surface  
tiq<sup>w</sup>iḥ – sit on floor

tiḥas – sit on ground  
tuxšiλ – jump  
waa – say  
wałšiλ – go home  
waʔič – sleep  
yaacuk – walk  
ʔucačiλ – go to  
ʔukḥaa – be called  
ʔuyii – give  
ʔuʔaaḥuk – take care

### Animals, birds

ḥkaaʔin – crow  
maamaati – bird  
quʔušin – raven  
q<sup>w</sup>inii – seagull  
saasin – hummingbird  
xaašxiip – blue jay  
ʔawatin – eagle

### Animals, fish

cuwīt – coho slamon  
čaaḥi – pink salmon  
hinkuuʔas – dog salmon  
hisit – sockeye salmon  
piiš – fish  
ḥpuuʔi – halibut  
suuḥaa – spring salmon

### Animals, land

čums – black bear

č̣aastumc – mink  
ḥiiyi – snake  
kaatu – cat  
maack<sup>w</sup>in – fly (insect)  
muwač – deer  
naani – grizzly bear  
q<sup>w</sup>ayačik – wolf  
saštup – land animal  
siičpaax – cougar  
ta<sup>t</sup>ap<sup>w</sup>in – ant  
waaxnii – river otter  
ʔiicq<sup>w</sup>in – rat, mouse  
ʔiniiλ – dog  
ʔinm̄i – slug

### **Animals, sea mammals**

kaka<sup>w</sup>in – killer whale  
kuukuḥ<sup>w</sup>isa – harbour seal  
k̄iłanus – fur seal  
k<sup>w</sup>ak<sup>w</sup>aλ – sea otter  
tukuuk – sea lion  
ʔiiḥtuup – whale

### **Animals, seashore**

ḥičin – steamer clam  
ḥiix – small purple sea urchin  
λu<sup>č</sup>um – mussel  
qasqiip – sea star  
tu<sup>č</sup>up – large red sea urchin  
ya<sup>ʔ</sup>isi – butter clam  
ʔamiiq – horse clam

### **The body**

čičiči – teeth  
č̣aḥčiti – knee  
č̣a<sup>č</sup>ca – fingernail  
č̣up – tongue  
hapsyup – hair  
hiłaksuł – mouth  
hina<sup>pa</sup>ł – back  
hinumł – body  
hiy<sup>ak</sup>λ – bottom, rump  
kuk<sup>w</sup>inksu – hand  
k̄uunis – spine  
hi<sup>ma</sup>qsti – mind, spirit  
λi<sup>š</sup>λin – foot  
λ<sup>ak</sup>win – elbow  
na<sup>λ</sup>aqat – ribs  
ni<sup>ča</sup> – nose  
pa<sup>pi</sup>i – ear  
qasii – eye  
qa<sup>y</sup>ap<sup>ta</sup> – arm, leg  
taa<sup>ča</sup> – belly, stomach  
tiičma – heart  
tu<sup>ḥ</sup>čiti – head  
wiit<sup>č</sup>i<sup>ñ</sup>um – brain  
ʔa<sup>ʔ</sup>ap<sup>č</sup>um – chest  
ʔa<sup>ʔ</sup>ap<sup>y</sup>umł – shoulder  
ʔimwinł – neck  
ʔašii – ankle  
ʔa<sup>fi</sup>či – eyebrow

## Colours

čisýuq<sup>w</sup>ak – green  
hašx<sup>w</sup>ak – grey  
ħicp̄iqak – brown  
kiñucyu – blue  
k̄ičq<sup>w</sup>ak – yellow  
łiħcaqyu – pink  
łiħuk – red  
łisuk – white  
pipickuk – orange-coloured  
tupkak – black  
ýap̄iicak – purple, blue

## Descriptive words

čamihta – proper  
k̄<sup>w</sup>ac?ii – correct  
łuł – good  
wićik – not know how  
?ap?ii – correct  
ɣaćik – know how

## Family

ħačumsiqsu – brother  
k<sup>w</sup>aa?uuc – grandchild  
ħuučm̄uup – sister  
ma?ayił – family  
m̄aam̄iiqsu – older sibling  
naniiqsu – grandparent  
na?iiqsu – aunt, uncle  
ñu<sup>w</sup>iiqsu – father  
qałaatik – younger brother  
taayii – head of family

taña – child  
wii?uu – nephew  
ýuk<sup>w</sup>iiqsu – younger sibling  
?aasiiqsu – niece  
?um?iiqsu – mother

## Feelings

čumqł – happy  
ha<sup>w</sup>iiqł – hungry  
łupłup?atu – feel hot  
łupýiiħa – feel hot  
naqmiiħa – thirsty  
puɣał?atu – sleepy  
p̄usaak – tired, worn out  
ta?ił – sick  
wiiɣaqł – sad  
yumqł – dislike, not want to  
?uušsuuqł – angry  
ɣatxsumħi – feel cold

## Foods

caqaašt – salmon smoked upside  
down, skin on  
ciixčuu – fried food, fried bread  
ćisqmis – meat  
čamas – sweets, dessert  
ča?ak – water  
ha?um – food, delicious  
kałkintapaħ – strawberry  
k<sup>w</sup>aapii – coffee  
k̄<sup>w</sup>aqmis – herring eggs  
łiłickuk – white bread

ʕiiṅa – eulachon fish, eulachon oil  
ʕiiṅaqsit – eulachon oil  
ʕuupčuu – bannock bread  
ʕuščuu – sun-dried salmon  
mux<sup>w</sup>aškin – soapberry  
puxčuu – yeast bread  
pux<sup>w</sup>aašt – sun-dried halibut  
qaawic – potatoes  
qawii – salmonberry  
tii – tea  
tupkaapaḥ qawii – blackberry  
yama – salal berry  
ʕaak<sup>w</sup>aašt – smoked dog salmon  
ʕapłck<sup>w</sup>ii – fish jerky

### The natural world

čaʕak – river  
čaačišt – island in ocean  
čaʕak – island  
čaʕak – water  
hiilapi – up there  
hiłcaat – out on the ocean  
hinaayił – sky, heaven  
hitaaqʕas – forest, inland  
hitinqis – beach  
hupał – sun, moon, month  
hiwahaḥmis – cloud  
maḥtii – house  
maʕas – village, home, house  
muksyi – rock, stone  
nisma – land  
naas – day, Creator

sučas – tree  
supicmis – sand  
tupał – salt water, ocean  
taṭuus – star  
ʕink – fire  
ʕinksyi – wood

### Numbers

čawaak – one  
ʕaḷa – two  
qacča – three  
muu – four  
suča – five  
nupu – six  
ʕaḷpu – seven  
ʕaḷak<sup>w</sup>ał – eight  
čawaak<sup>w</sup>ał, čawak<sup>w</sup>ał – nine  
ḥayu – ten  
caqiic – twenty  
ʕaḷiiq – forty  
qacčiiq – sixty  
muyiiq – eighty  
sučiiq – hundred

### People

čakup – man, husband  
ḥaak<sup>w</sup>aaḷ – young woman  
ḥaawilaḷ – young man  
ḥucma – woman, wife  
ḥucsac – girl  
maʕiḷqac – boy  
mixtuk – elder

naʔaqaq – baby  
quuʔas – person  
quuʔassa – Indian, First Nations  
person

### **School objects**

haawʔacsacum – table  
k<sup>w</sup>aacsacum – chair, bench  
k<sup>w</sup>aacsacus – chair  
ʔiissacum – desk  
ʔiisuwiʔ – school  
ʔiisyak – pen, pencil  
ʔaʔiqs – box  
načaaʔyak – book, mirror

### **Seasons**

cuʔičh – winter  
ʔaqšiʔ – spring  
ʔupiičh – summer  
ʔayiičh – autumn

### **Time**

hupaʔ – sun, moon, month  
kuʔaʔ – morning  
tuupšiʔ – evening  
ʔamii – yesterday, tomorrow

ʔamiiʔik – tomorrow  
ʔamiimitʔi – yesterday  
ʔapwin ʔaas – noon  
ʔathii – night

### **Vehicles**

čapac – canoe  
huupuk<sup>w</sup>as – car, truck  
matuk – airplane  
maʔakʔi – speedboat  
patpat – inboard motorboat

### **Weather**

k<sup>w</sup>isaa – snowing  
hiwʔaʔyu – cloudy  
ʔupaa – hot weather, sunny  
maʔaa – cold weather  
miʔaa – raining  
qux<sup>w</sup>aa – freezing weather  
wiiqsii – stormy weather  
wiiwiiquk – bad environment  
yuʔi – windy  
ʔučqak – foggy  
ʔuuqumʔi – calm weather  
ʔuuʔuuquk – nice environment

## Quick pronunciation guide

This guide offers quick reminders of how to pronounce each letter of the Nuu-chah-nulth alphabet.

a	<i>uh</i>	o	<i>oh</i> or <i>aw</i>
aa	long <i>ah</i>	oo	long <i>oh</i> or <i>aw</i>
c	<i>ts</i>	p	<i>p</i>
č	explosive <i>ts</i>	ḑ	explosive <i>p</i>
č	<i>ch</i>	q	back <i>k</i>
č̣	explosive <i>ch</i>	q <sup>w</sup>	rounded back <i>k</i>
e	as in <i>get</i>	s	<i>s</i>
ee	as in <i>hey</i> , and long	š	<i>sh</i>
h	<i>h</i>	t	<i>t</i>
ḥ	raspy <i>h</i>	ṭ	explosive <i>t</i>
i	as in <i>it</i>	u	as in <i>put</i>
ii	as in <i>ski</i> , and long	uu	as in <i>due</i> , and long
k	<i>k</i>	w	<i>w</i>
k <sup>w</sup>	rounded <i>k</i>	ẉ	<i>w</i> with a catch
ḳ	explosive <i>k</i>	x	like a cat's hiss
ḳ <sup>w</sup>	rounded explosive <i>k</i>	x <sup>w</sup>	rounded <i>x</i>
ł	hissed <i>l</i>	ḵ	like clearing the throat
λ	<i>tl</i>	ḵ <sup>w</sup>	rounded <i>ḵ</i>
λ̣	explosive <i>tl</i>	y	<i>y</i>
m	<i>m</i>	ỵ	<i>y</i> with a catch
ṃ	<i>m</i> with a catch	ʔ	catch in throat
n	<i>n</i>	ʔ̣	catch in throat plus <i>r</i>
ṇ	<i>n</i> with a catch		