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łayahuʔaał • Greetings

ʔutwii • Introduction

This lesson introduces some common greetings and goodbyes. You will learn a basic greeting that is appropriate in most situations. This includes the questions ‘Is that you?’, ‘Are you okay?’, ‘What are you doing?’, and a comment about the weather.

The advanced section introduces some additional friendly conversation for when you run into someone, including how to ask about someone’s family, and to ask about the news.

In some dialects, people say hello by asking, ‘Is that you?’ In others, they start by asking, ‘Are you okay?’

1A. suwaaqk. Is that you?

1B. siyaaqsiš. It’s me.

2A. šahyitk (q^waa). Are you okay?

2B. šahyitsiš. I’m okay.

2B. yuuq^waak šahyit. Are you okay too?

3A. ?uu?uuquk?iš. It’s a nice day.

3B. ?aani?iš ?uu?uuquk. It sure is nice.

4A. ?aaqin?apk. What are you doing?

4B. huuhtakšiiḥsiš ciiqciqasa. .. I’m learning Nuuchahnulth.

- ▶ Note. The q^waa in 2A is optional. You can use it or not, with no great difference in meaning.
- ∞ Exercise. Practise just one mini-conversation at a time from conversations 1-4. Take turns speaking the (A) and (B) roles. Get at least three good repetitions before switching roles.
- ∞ Exercise. When you're ready, try running through all of conversations 1-4, one after the other. This is our basic greeting.

There are at least three different words meaning ‘okay’. Practise using these different words in conversation 5.

- šaḥyit (one is) okay
- čáčuṃhi (one is) okay
- wiikṣ̌hin (one is) okay

5A. __-k (q^waa). Are you __?

5B. __-siš..... I’m __.

5B. ỵuuq^waak __..... Are you __ too?

5A. haa. Yes.

5A. ỵuuq^waasiš __..... I’m __ too.

- ∞ Exercise. First, keep it simple by practising just (A) ‘Are you okay?’ (B) ‘I’m okay.’
- ∞ Exercise. When you’re ready, add (B) ‘Are you okay too?’ (A) ‘I’m okay too.’

Here are some goodbyes. The basic goodbye is čuu. This can also mean ‘okay, acknowledged’. You can also say ‘take care’.

6A. čuu. Goodbye.

6B. čuu. Okay. Acknowledged.

6A. šaḥỵitiʔaał. Be well (always).

6A. ʔuụyałuk^wiʔaał. Take care (always).

6B. ỵuuq^waaʔiʔaał. You do it too (always).

- ∞ Exercise. First, keep it simple by saying only *čuu* to each other.
- ∞ Exercise. When you're ready, try alternating between *čuu* and 'take care'. Be sure that (B) responds appropriately.

Advanced

When you see someone who you haven't seen for a while, it's polite to ask about their family.

7A. šaḥyítukk taaṭna. Are your children okay?

7A. šaḥyítukk ʔaʔiič̣um. Are your elders okay?

7B. haa, šaḥyítʔišʔaʔ. Yes, they're okay.

Ask about each other's relatives, and respond appropriately.

- ʔaʔiičum..... elders
- čakup husband, boyfriend
- ʔuucma wife, girlfriend
- ʔaak^waaʔ young woman, daughter
- ʔaawilaʔ young man, son
- ʔaʔaʔis..... small child
- ʔaatʔaʔis..... small children

8A. šaʔyitukk ____..... Is your ____ okay?

8B. haa, šaʔyitʔiš. Yes, he, she is okay.

8B. haa, šaʔyitʔišʔaʔ..... Yes, they're okay.

∞ Exercise. Practise conversation 8.

∞ Exercise. Try using different words for ‘okay’. (B) responds using whatever word (A) uses.

8A. šaḥyitukk __..... Is your __ okay?

8A. čačumhakk __. Is your __ okay?

8A. wiikšhinʔakk __. Is your __ okay?

8B. haa, __-ʔiš..... Yes, he, she is __.

8B. haa, __-ʔišʔał..... Yes, they’re __.

News is a big topic. We will start by learning some sentences for bringing up the news in conversation.

9A. ?iyaqḥnakk..... Do you have news?

9A. ?aqaqḥ ?iyaqḥmis. What's the news?

9B. λuḥuks ?iyaqḥmis..... My news is good.

9B. p̄išaq?iṣ ?iyaqḥmis. The news is bad.

9B. ?ayaaks ?iyaqḥmis. I have lots of news.

9B. wikiituks ?iyaqḥmis. I have no news.

- ∞ Exercise. Practise conversation 9.
- ∞ Exercise. Get an advanced speaker's help to make a sentence or two about some current news. Keep it simple. Then when you are asked about the news, tell what you know.

Here are some more ways to say goodbye.

10A. ʔuyiʔaqʁs ńaacsiičiʁ suutił. I'll see you later.

10B. čuu, ʔuyiʔaqʁniš. Okay, (we will) later.

11A. ʁuʁukum kaʁhak. Have a good day.

11A. ʁuʁukum ʔapwınʁck^{wi}. Have a good afternoon.

11A. ʁuʁukum tuupšiʁ. Have a good evening.

11A. ʁuʁukum ʔathii. Have a good night.

11B. ʔuuq^waaʔum. You do it too (in future).

11B. ʔuuq^waaʔakum. You have one too (in future).