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q^waq^wakuk^watii • What things look like

ʔutwii • Introduction

You will learn some basic {adjectives}. Adjectives are descriptive words like ‘good’, ‘bad’, ‘big’, ‘small’, and so on. You will use them to describe people, animals, things, and places.

In the advanced section, you will practise plural adjectives, and words for ‘new’ and ‘old’. You will learn how Nuuchahnulth and English talk differently about colour, and to make comparative constructions, like ‘Salmon are bigger than herring’.

huuḥtakšičaya • Beginning

Similar, different. Show your partner two objects. Discuss whether they are similar or different.

- miłḥii similar
 - k^wiishin different
- 1A. ṅaši?i ?ahkuu. Look at these.
- 1A. miłḥiiḥ ?ahkuu..... Are these similar?
- 1A. k^wiishinḥ ?ahkuu..... Are these different?
- 1B. __-?iš ?ahṅii..... Those are __.
- 1B. __-ṭana-?iš ?ahṅii..... Those are kind of __.
- 1A. ?aqinakk..... What do you have?
- 1A. ḥimči?is..... Show me.

- ▶ Note. The word {miiłhii} means ‘similar’, but not ‘the same’. When two concepts are exactly the same thing, they can be described as {ćawaak} ‘one’.
 - ćawaack^winiš..... We come from the same root.
 - ćaawaksaʔišʔał..... They are one and the same.
 - ćawaakukʔišʔał ʔumʔiiqsu. ... They have the same mother.

Describing animals. Talk about some common animal species, or about your own pets. Are they good or bad, big or small, fat or skinny? Use the words on the following pages.

2A. ʔiiḥ čims, ʔučknaḥʔiḥ. Is a bear big or small?

2B. __-ʔiḥ. It's __.

2B. __-ḥana-ʔiḥ. It's kind of __.

2B. wikʔiiḥ __. It isn't __.

2A. saštupnakk. Do you have a pet?

2A. ʔačaqḥaḥ. What's his, her name?

2B. ʔunaaksiḥ ḥiniiḥ. I have a dog.

2B. ʔukḥaaʔiḥ __. His, her name is __.

2B. wikiituksiḥ saštup. I don't have a pet.

- λuł good
- p̄iśaq..... bad
- ?iiḥ big
- ?učknaḥ?is small
- ýaaq long
- ḥiic?is* short in length
- λ̄ac fat
- λ̄iḥaq̄ȳiḥa* skinny
- λ̄aȳix fast
- λuułλuuła slow
- λuλułkuk good-looking
- p̄iḥiškuk ugly

- ʔiicq^win mouse, rat
- piišpiš..... cat
- ʕiniiʕ..... dog
- ʕaʔuu beaver
- muwač..... deer
- saasin hummingbird
- ʕix^watin eagle
- ʕinm̓i slug
- ʕiiyi..... snake
- ʕusmit..... herring
- suuḥaa..... spring salmon
- tukuuk..... sea lion
- ʔiiḥtuup..... whale

- ▶ Note. Some adjectives have only one syllable, like {ʔuʔ}, {ʔiih}, {ʔaaq}, {ʔac}. After these adjectives, some endings will have long vowels.
 - ʔuʔh, ʔuʔʔiiš, ʔaaqh, ʔaaqʔiiš, ʔach, ʔacʔiiš
 - ʔišaqh, ʔišaqʔiiš, ʔayixh, ʔayixʔiiš, ʔuuʔʔuuʔaʔiiš
- ▶ Note. Some adjectives end in {-ʔis}. This ending comes after {-cʔin}, {-tʔana}, but before mood endings.
 - ʔuʔ, ʔuʔtʔana, ʔuʔtʔanaʔiiš
 - ʔiiicʔis, ʔiiictʔanaʔis, ʔiiictʔanaʔisʔiiš
 - ʔučknaʔis, ʔučknaʔtʔanaʔis, ʔučknaʔtʔanaʔisʔiiš

- ▶ Note. There are a few words for ‘cute’. B {ʔapaasʔis} implies that something is cute in a small way. CT {ḥaałmaḥiʔis}, Q {ḥaałmaḥaʔs} implies that something is childlike. If you add the plural ending {-minḥ}, it will come before {-ʔis}.
 - ḥaałmaḥiʔis..... cute, small
 - ḥaałmaḥiminhʔis..... ~pl.

Near, far. Talk about how far away different towns are.

3A. λawaaḥ mituuni, sayaaḥ..... Is Victoria nearby or far away?

3B. __-ʔiʃ. It's __.

- λawaa near
- sayaa far
- ńačiqs Tofino
- yuułʔił Ucluelet
- ɕuumuʃaas Port Alberni
- λamaatax^w Campbell River
- naanaaymux Nanaimo
- mituuni Victoria
- paankuupa Vancouver

- ▶ Note. The N name { $\lambda^{\text{amaatax}}^{\text{w}}$ } for Campbell River is not well established. It comes from Kwakwala { $\lambda^{\text{amatax}}^{\text{w}}$ }.

Describing people. You're looking for someone who you know by name, but don't know what they look like. Ask your partner to describe them. Use the words on the following pages.

4A. ?uṅaaḥsiš ____..... I'm looking for ____.

4A. ?a?aqikukḥ..... What do they look like?

4A. ?iiqḥuk^wis q^waayii. Tell me what they're like.

4A. čakupḥ, ḥuucmaḥ..... Are they a man or woman?

4A. ____-ḥ. Is he, she ____?

4B. ____-?i'š. He, she is ____.

4B. wik?iiš ____..... He, she isn't ____.

Here are some useful words for describing people.

- ʔiiḥḥiit..... tall
- ʔučknaḥʔis short in height
- ʔiičum old person, elder
- čakup man
- ɬuucma woman
- ḥaak^waaɬ young woman
- ḥaawíɬaɬ young man
- ɬucsacʔis small girl
- maʔiɬqacʔis small boy
- hapaksuɬ..... having whiskers, beard
- taactaanaqsuɬ wearing eyeglasses

- ȳaqsumł..... having long hair
- ńiicumłʔis..... having short hair
- ʔucumł..... having short, spiky hair
- ʕasqii..... bald on top
- tuupkik, tupkumł having dark hair
- ʕiicx^wik*, ʕicxumł* having blond hair
- ʕiihik, ʕihumł..... having red hair
- ʕaasik, ʕasumł..... having grey hair
- ʕiisik, ʕisumł..... having white hair
- tupkuuł..... having a dark face
- waʂuuł..... having a brown face
- ʕisuuł..... having a pale face

- ▶ Note. The preceding words describing hair and faces use several suffixes. At least three suffixes describe heads and hair. The suffix $\{-(q)u\dot{l}\}$ describes faces.
 - $-qi\dot{r}$ ‘at the top’
 - $-(q)im\dot{l}$, $-(q)um\dot{l}$ ‘round, chunky’
 - $L-(w)ik^w$ ‘at the hair’
 - $-(q)u\dot{l}$ ‘at the face’
- ▶ Note. The word $\{wa\dot{s}uu\dot{l}\}$ is common for describing tanned faces, like Nuuchahnulth people have in summertime. But $\{tupkuu\dot{l}\}$, $\{\lambda^{\dot{2}}isuu\dot{l}\}$ are not well established.