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ᐱayaᖃuᖅᐱᐱ • Greetings

ʔuwii • 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. ʔuhʔaʔhək. Is that you?

1B. ʔuhʔaʔah. It’s me.

2A. čăčimhīhək (q^waa). Are you okay?

2B. čăčimhīmah. I’m okay.

2B. ʔuuq^waahək čăčimhī. Are you okay too?

3A. ʔuuʔuuqukma. It’s a nice day.

3B. ʔaanima ʔuuʔuuquk. It sure is nice.

4A. ʔaaqinʔaphək. What are you doing?

4B. huuh̄takšiih̄ah̄ quuquuʔaca. 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.

- čáčimḥi (one is) okay
- wiikšahḥi..... (one is) okay
- šahḥ'it LQ, AHT šahḥ'ut..... (one is) okay

5A. __-ḥa·k (q^waa)..... Are you __?

5B. __-(m)a·ḥ..... I'm __.

5B. ḥ'uuq^waahak __..... Are you __ too?

5A. haa?a..... Yes.

5A. ḥ'uuq^waamah __..... 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.’
- ∞ Exercise. It is common to reply to the question ‘Are you okay?’ with ‘very okay, very okay’.
- čaačimḥisa, čaačimḥisa..... very okay, very okay
- wiikšahisa, wiikšahisa..... very okay, very okay

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. Bye.

6A. čačimḥiʔiʔaala. Be well (always).

6A. ʔuʔaaluḱ^wiʔaala..... Take care (always).

6B. ʔuuq^weeʔiʔaala..... 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. čăčimḥakḥak taatḥeʔis..... Are your children okay?

7A. čăčimḥakḥak ʔeʔiičim..... Are your elders okay?

7B. haaʔa, čăčimḥimaʔaʔ..... Yes, they're okay.

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

- ʔeʔiičim..... elders
- čakup husband, boyfriend
- ʔuucsma..... wife, girlfriend
- ʔaak^waaʔ young woman, daughter
- ʔaawilaʔ young man, son
- ʔaʔeʔis..... small child
- ʔaatʔeʔis..... small children

8A. čačimʔiʔa __..... Is __ okay?

8A. čačimʔakʔak __. Is your __ okay?

8B. haaʔa, čačimʔima. Yes, he, she is okay.

8B. haaʔa, čačimʔimaʔaʔ..... Yes, they're okay.

∞ Exercise. Practise asking about people based on relationship.

- yaaqsčafinʔitqak your friend
- yaqḥʔuuʔitqak your relative
- yaq^winkʔitqak..... your partner

8A. čačimḥiḥa __..... Is __ okay?

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

8A. čačimḥakhak __. Is your __ okay?

8A. wiikšahakhak __. Is your __ okay?

8B. haaʔa, __-(m)aʔ..... Yes, he, she is __.

8B. haaʔa, __-(m)aʔaʔ..... Yes, they’re __.

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

9A. ?uyaqḥnakḥak..... Do you have news?

9A. ?aqaqḥa ?uyaqḥmis..... What's the news?

9B. λuḥuk^wah ?uyaqḥmis..... My news is good.

9B. p̄išaqma ?uyaqḥmis..... The news is bad.

9B. ?ayaakah ?uyaqḥmis..... I have lots of news.

9B. wikiituk^wah ?uyaqḥmis..... 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. ʔuyaaqʕah ńačuʔaʔ suwa. ... I'll see you later.

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

11A. ʕuʕuk^wim ńaas. Have a good day.

11A. ʕuʕuk^wim ʔapwínʕck^wi. Have a good afternoon.

11A. ʕuʕuk^wim tuupšiʕ. Have a good evening.

11A. ʕuʕuk^wim ʔathii..... Have a good night.

11B. ýuuq^weeʔim..... You do it too (in future).

11B. ýuuq^waaʔakim..... You have one too (in future).