

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

ʔuwii • 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 things, animals, places, and people.

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^wiishii different
- 1A. ṅaši?i ?ahkuu. Look at this.
- 1A. miłḥiiḥa ?ahkuu. Are these similar?
- 1A. k^wiishiiḥa ?ahkuu. Are these different?
- 1B. __-ma' ?ahṅii. Those are __.
- 1B. __-ckin-ma ?ahṅii. Those are kind of __.
- 1A. ?aqinakḥak. 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^wimin. We come from the same root.
- ćaawaksama?ał. They are one and the same.
- ćawaakukma?ał ?um?iiqsu. .. 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, fast or slow? Use the words on the following pages.

2A. ?iiḥḥaa čims, ?anaḥ?iṣḥa. .. Is a bear big or small?

2B. __-maʼ..... It's __.

2B. __-ckin-ma. It's kind of __.

2B. wikmaa __..... It isn't __.

2A. ?unaakhak saštup..... Do you have a pet?

2A. ?ačaqłaha. What's his, her name?

2B. ?unaakah ḥiniiḷ. I have a dog.

2B. ?ukłaama __..... His, her name is __.

2B. wikiituk^wah saštup. I don't have a pet.

- λuł good
- p̣išaq..... bad
- ʔiiḥ big
- ʔanaḥʔis small
- ýaaq long
- ʔuuneʔis short in length
- λ̣ac fat
- λ̣iḥaqṣ̌iλ..... skinny
- λ̣aýax fast
- λuułλuuła slow
- λuλułkuk good-looking
- p̣iḥiškuk ugly

- ʕiicaʕuk 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.
 - ʔuʔhaa, ʔuʔmaa, ʔaaqhaa, ʔaaqmaa, ʔachaa, ʔacmaa
 - ʔišaqha, ʔišaqma, ʔaʔaxha, ʔaʔaxma, ʔuuʔuuʔama
- ▶ Note. Some adjectives end in {-ʔis}. This ending comes after {-cʔin}, {-tana}, but before mood endings.
 - ʔuʔ, ʔuʔcʔin, ʔuʔcʔinma
 - ʔanaʔʔis, ʔanaʔcʔinʔis, ʔanaʔcʔinʔisma
 - ʔuuneʔis, ʔuunackʔinʔis, ʔuunackʔinʔisma

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

3A. λawaaha mituuni, sayaaḥa. .. Is Victoria nearby or far away?

3B. __-maʼ..... It's __.

- λawaa near
- sayaa far
- ḥačiqs Tofino
- yuuḥuʔiḥ Ucluelet
- ćuumaḥas Port Alberni
- λamaatax^w Campbell River
- naanaaymux..... Nanaimo
- mituuni Victoria
- paankuupa Vancouver

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. ?uṅaahaḥ __..... I'm looking for __.

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

4A. čakupḥa, ḥuucsmaha..... Are they a man or woman?

4A. __-ḥa'..... Is he, she __?

4B. __-ma'..... He, she is __.

4B. wikmaa __..... He, she isn't __.

Here are some words for describing people.

- ʔiiḥ tall
- ʔanaḥʔis short in height
- ʔiičim old person, elder
- čakup man
- ɬuucsma woman
- ɬaak^waaɬ young woman
- ɬaawilaɬ young man
- ɬaak^waaɬʔis small girl
- meʔiɬqacʔis small boy
- hapaksuɬ having facial hair
- pipiiḥýaksuɬ wearing eyeglasses

- ýaqsimł..... having long hair
- ʔuniksimłʔis having short hair
- ʔucimł..... having very short hair
- ʔasqii..... bald
- tuupkik..... having dark hair
- ʔiicx^wik having light-coloured hair
- ʔiihik having red hair
- ʔaasik having grey hair
- ʔiisik having white hair
- tupkuuł..... having a dark face
- wašuuł..... having a brown face
- ʔisuuł..... having a pale face

naanaʔiičiłaya • Advanced

plural adjectives

new, old (čušuk, ?iičim)

colours

comparatives

1A. ncn. eng.

1B. ncn. eng.

2A. ncn. eng.

2B. ncn. eng.