

Lesson 8. Actions

8.1. Learning goals

- to recognize and use 22 common action words
- to be able to make simple commands with *-!i'*, *-!i'č*, *-!i's*, *-!in*, and *-!aλ*
- to be able to correctly pronounce the effects of hardening

8.2. Conversations

1A	ṭiq ^w aas?i.	Sit down (on a chair).
1B	čuu, ṭiq ^w aas?aqλs. ṭiq ^w aas?aλs.	Okay, I'll sit. I'm sitting now.
2A	ḥamiłš <i>i</i> ?i.	Try it.
2A	ḥamiłš <i>i</i> ?aλ <i>i</i> .	Try it now.
2B	čuu, ḥamiłš <i>i</i> λ?aqλs.	Okay, I'll try.
3A	hupii?is.	Help me.
3B	čuu, hupii?aqλs suutił.	Okay, I'll help you.
4A	nunuuk ^w in.	Let's sing.
4B	čuu, nunuuk?aqλniš.	Okay, we'll sing.

8.3. Words

ha?uk.....	eat	nunuuk	sing
huułhuuła.....	dance	ḥačaał	read
kamatquk	run	suu	hold
kupš <i>i</i> λ	point	susaa.....	swim
ṭaaqyaas	stand outdoors	ṭiq ^w aas	sit on surface
ṭaaqyiił	stand indoors	ṭiq ^w ił	sit on floor
λatwaa	paddle	tuxš <i>i</i> λ	jump
λupkš <i>i</i> λ *	wake up	wa?ičuλ.....	go to sleep
λiix ^w aa	laughing	wiinapi	not moving
mataa	flying	wiinapił	not moving indoors
na?aataḥ.....	listen	yaacuk	walk

8.4. Notes on command mood endings

There are many command mood endings. These are four of the most common ones.

(1)	person	ending	forms
	you	-!i'	-?ii, -?i, -óii, -ói
	you all	-!i'č	-?iič, -?ič, -óiič, -óič
	you-me	-!i's	-?iis, -?is, -óiis, -óis
	we, you-us	-!in	-?in, -óin

An exclamation point (!) designates a hardening ending, which glottalizes preceding consonants. A dot after a vowel (*i*) indicates a weak long vowel, which is long only after a short stem. This notation summarizes all the forms that these endings can take.

Some command endings refer to two persons, a subject and an object. The ending *-!i's* means 'you do to me'. The ending *-!in* can mean either 'let's do', or 'you do to us'.

(2)	suu-?ii.	Hold it.	nunuuk ^w -i.	Sing.
	suu-?iič.	Hold it (you all).	nunuuk ^w -ič.	Sing (you all).
	wik ^w -iis.	Don't do to me.	na?aataḥ-?is.	Listen to me.
	wik ^w -in.	Let's not. Don't do to us.	na?aataḥ-?in.	Let's listen. Listen to us.

∞ **Exercise 1.** For each command in example (2), say the stem first (*suu*, *wik*, *nunuuk*, *na?aataḥ*), then the command. Pay attention to glottalization and length.

8.5. Notes on hardening

Hardening endings tend to change the last sound of their stem into a *hard* or *glottalized* sound. Some important hardening endings are *-!i'*, *-!aλ*, *-!ath*, and *-!aqsup*.

The results of hardening are different, depending on what kind of sound is affected. After *vowels* (*a aa i ii u uu*) and *spirants* (*t s š x ḥ*), hardening becomes a glottal stop (?). After most *plosives* (*p t λ c č k*), hardening glottalizes the plosive (*p̣ ṭ λ̣ c̣ č̣ ḳ*). After /q/, hardening changes the /q/ into a pharyngeal stop (ʕ).

You do not need to remember the technical description of hardening. Instead, practise saying many stems and commands, and try to develop an ear for what sounds right.

(3)	stem		last sound	command
	suu	hold	vowel	suu?ii. Hold it.
	mataa	flying	vowel	mataa?i. Fly.
	tiq ^w aas	sit	spirant	tiq ^w aas?i. Sit.
	ha?uk	eat	plosive	ha?uk ^w i. Eat.
	suwaaq	you	/q/	suwaaʕi. You do it.

That is the general pattern of hardening. But there are some more special cases. *Complete aspect* forms of action words often end in a barred lambda (λ̄). When this lambda is affected by hardening, it does not glottalize, but simply disappears. The hardening is then pronounced as /ʔ/, as if the lambda had never been there.

(4)	stem		last sound		command	
	waʔičuλ	go to sleep	complete aspect /ʎ/		waʔičuʔi.	Go to sleep.
	λupkšiλ	wake up	complete aspect /ʎ/		λupkšiʔi.	Wake up.

8.6. Notes on rounding

The consonants /k q x ɣ/ can be plain or round. When they come after /u uu/ and before another vowel, they tend to become round.

(5)	haʔuk	eat	kamatquk	run	yaacuk	walk
	haʔuk ^w in	Let's eat.	kamatquk ^w in	Let's run.	yaacuk ^w in	Let's walk.

∞ **Exercise 2.** For each of the following action words, say the word alone, then say it with the command ending *-!i*. Pay attention to the last sound of each stem.

waa	tiq ^w ił	taaqaas	yaacuk	wiinapi	namišiλ
naʔaataḥ	suu	wiinapił	hupii	taaquił	susaa
waʔičuλ	suwaaq	načaał	kupšiλ	tuxšiλ	kamatquk
tiq ^w aas	haʔuk	λatwaa	huułhuuła	λupkšiλ	huuxsʔatu

Example. waa, waaʔii, naʔaataḥ, naʔaataḥʔi, waʔičuλ, waʔičuʔi

8.7. Notes on commands with *-!aλ*

The ending *-!aλ* is often used with commands, because it emphasizes that one should do something that one is not doing already. This ending hardens its stem in the same way as *-!i*. When *-!aλ* itself is hardened, its /ʎ/ hardens normally, to /ʎ̣/.

(6)	stem		command		with <i>-!aλ</i>	
	hupii	help	hupii-ʔi.	Help!	hupii-ʔaλ̣-i.	Help now!
	naʔaataḥ	listen	naʔaataḥ-ʔi.	Listen!	naʔaataḥ-ʔaλ̣-i.	Listen now!
	yaacuk	walk	yaacuk ^w -i.	Walk!	yaacuk ^w -aλ̣-i.	Walk now!
	kupšiλ	point	kupši-ʔi	Point!	kupši-ʔaλ̣-i.	Point now!

∞ **Exercise 3.** For each of the following action words, say the word alone, then make a command with *-!i*, then with *-!ič*, then with *-!aλ-i*.

huuxsʔatu	waʔičuλ	taaquił	wiinapił	suu	yaacuk
waa	λupkšiλ	tiq ^w aas	suwaaq	namišiλ	kupšiλ

Example. huuxsʔatu, huuxsʔatuʔi, huuxsʔatuʔič, huuxsʔatuʔaλ̣i

8.8. Notes comparing *-!aλ* and *-ʔaqλ*

The endings *-!aλ* ‘now, and then’ and *-ʔaqλ* ‘will’ sound similar, but mean different things. They can even be used in the same word.

(7)	ṭiqʷiḥ-niš.	We’re sitting.	tuxšiš-š.	I jumped.
	ṭiqʷiḥ-ʔaλ-niš.	We’re sitting now.	tuxšiš-ʔaλ-š.	Then I jumped.
	ṭiqʷiḥ-ʔaqλ-niš.	We’ll sit.	tuxšiš-ʔaqλ-š.	I’ll jump.
	ṭiqʷiḥ-ʔaqλ-aλ-niš.	We’ll sit now.	tuxšiš-ʔaqλ-aλ-š.	I’ll jump now.

You can tell these two endings apart because only *-ʔaqλ* contains a /q/, and only *-!aλ* is a hardening ending. When they appear together, *-ʔaqλ* always comes before *-!aλ*.

However, be aware that some speakers do treat *-ʔaqλ* as hardening. Such speakers would say, for example, *nunuukʷ-aqλ-niš* ‘We will sing’, instead of *nunuuk-ʔaqλ-niš*.

∞ **Exercise 4.** With a partner, A makes a command from each of these action words. Then B responds with ‘Okay, I will...’

ṭiqʷiḥ	hupii	ḥačaaḥ	ṭaaqyiiḥ	suu	naʔaataḥ
ḥamiḥšiš.	waʔičuλ.	suwaaq	wiinapiḥ	λatwaa	ṭiqʷaas

Example. A. ṭiqʷiḥʔi. ‘Sit (on the floor).’ B. čuu, ṭiqʷiḥʔaqλs. ‘Okay, I will sit.’

8.9. Test yourself

After finishing this lesson, you should be able to say these things in Nuuchahnulth.

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Point! | 9. Let’s sing now. |
| 2. Sit (on a chair). | 10. Okay, we’ll sing. |
| 3. Sit (on the floor). | 11. Okay, I’ll hold it. |
| 4. Try it now. | 12. Listen to me. |
| 5. Okay, I’ll try. | 13. Say it now. |
| 6. Don’t move. | 14. Go to sleep now. |
| 7. Stand here (indoors). | 15. Wake up now. |
| 8. Help me. | 16. Dance (you all)! |