

## Unit 13. Speaking Nuuchahnulth

### Learning goals

- to maintain Nuuchahnulth immersion for a few minutes
- to memorize some lifelines for this purpose
- to encourage and support less advanced speakers

### Words

waa.....	say it	kukums Q.....	not understanding it
wawaa .....	saying it	ḥamaṭap* .....	knowing it
?a?aquu .....	saying what	ʕačik.....	knowing how, skilled
?aqičła .....	called what	huḥtak.....	knowing (how)
q <sup>wi</sup> čłaa .....	called what (indirect)	huḥtakšił.....	learn (how)
ciiqciqa.....	speaking	huuḥtakšiiḥ .....	learning (how)
ciiqciqasa.....	speaking	huuḥtakšiiḥ?ap.....	teaching it (how)
Nuuchahnulth		ḥaaḥuupa .....	teaching it
quuquu?aca* .....	speaking	ḥaaḥuupču .....	taught, trained
Nuuchahnulth		?apsčiik .....	going the right way
maamaamaḥniqa .....	speaking English	wiksčiik.....	going the wrong way
?ii?iiniša* .....	speaking English	kat?uk .....	proud
?u?uk <sup>wink</sup> .....	speaking to	nučḥak .....	proud, happy
nana?a.....	understanding it	hu?aas .....	again
wiwikap.....	not understanding it	łuułłuuła .....	slow

### Conversations

- 1A. ?a?aquuk. .... What are you saying?  
 1A. ?a?aquumahsak. .... What do you want to say?  
 1B. \_\_ waamuuts.\* ..... I said \_\_.  
 1B. \_\_ waamahsas.\* ..... I want to say \_\_.  
 1A. hu?aas?i waa. .... Say it again.  
 1A. λuułłuuła?i ciiqciqa..... Speak slowly.  
 1A. hupii?is. .... Help me.  
 1B. nana?ak wawaayiis..... Do you understand what I'm saying?  
 1A. nana?as wawaayiik..... I understand what you're saying.  
 1A. wiwikaps wawaayiik. .... I don't understand what you're saying.  
 1A. ?aanahimahsas na?aataḥ. .... I just want to listen.  
 1A. wikap'is. .... Let me not. I pass.
- 2A. ?aqičłaḥ \_\_.\* ..... What is \_\_ called?  
 2A. ?a?aquu?ath?aał \_\_..... How does one say \_\_?

- 2B. \_\_\_ ʔuklaaʔiš. .... It's called \_\_\_.
- 2B. \_\_\_ waaʔatʔišʔaaʔ. .... One says \_\_\_.
- 2B. hayumʔis q<sup>wi</sup>člaayii. .... I don't know what it's called.
- 2B. hayumʔis waaʔatiiʔaaʔ. .... I don't know how it's said.
- 2A. ʔapsčiikʔs. .... Am I saying it right?
- 2B. ʔapsčiikʔick. .... You're saying it right.
- 2B. wiksčiikʔick. .... You're saying it wrong.
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- 3A. ʔuʔumʔihʔs susutink. .... Can I talk to you?
- 3A. ʔuʔumʔihʔs ʔaʔaatuu suutiʔ. .... Can I ask you something?
- 3A. ʔuʔumʔihʔs \_\_\_ waa. .... Can I say \_\_\_?
- 3B. ʔuʔumʔiʔick. .... You may.
- 3B. ʔuušwaamahʔsak. .... Do you want to say something?
- 3B. ʔaaqimačukmahʔsak. .... What do you want to talk about?
- 3B. ʔaaqimačukʔaqʔʔin. .... What shall we talk about?
- 3A. ʔuumacukaʔin q<sup>w</sup>aaʔapʔaqʔin. .... Let's talk about what we will do.
- 3A. ʔuumacukaʔin \_\_\_. .... Let's talk about \_\_\_.
- 
- 4A. ciiqciqasaʔi. .... Speak Nuuchahnulth.
- 4A. ciiqciqasaʔin. .... Let's speak Nuuchahnulth.
- 4A. wikii maamaamaʔniqa. .... Don't speak English.
- 4B. čuu, ciiqciqasačiʔʔaqʔs.\* .... Okay, I'll speak Nuuchahnulth.
- 4B. ʔuuščaksʔiʔick ʔuuʔaap siičiʔ.\* .... Thank you for reminding me.
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- 5A. ʔahʔaʔʔick! .... Good for you!
- 5A. ʔuʔaatukʔick. .... You sound good.
- 5A. ʔačikʔiʔaʔʔick. .... You've learned it.
- 5A. nanaʔiičiʔaʔʔick. .... You've understood it.
- 5A. nučʔaksapʔick siičiʔ. .... You have made me proud.
- 5A. čamiʔtaʔick ʔaahʔuupču. .... You are properly taught.

The best way to learn a language is to be immersed in it—that is, to hear and speak only that language. But even advanced learners find it difficult to maintain immersion. This unit's conversations provide sentences that can make it a little easier.

Conversations 1 and 2 offer sentences to help beginners talk to stronger speakers, even when they feel that they have nothing to say. Conversation 1 is just for keeping up. Some of these sentences are so useful, we call them *lifelines*. Conversation 2 helps you to learn more Nuuchahnulth while speaking Nuuchahnulth.

The other conversations are for teachers, mentors, and advanced learners who are ready to support beginners. Conversation 3 gives you some ways to start a conversation. Conversation 4 will help you help others to stay in Nuuchahnulth. Last, conversation 5 gives you some ways to encourage others.

Conversation 1 includes the phrase BCT *wikápis*, Q *wikáps*. Although this is translated ‘I pass’, in fact it is stronger than this. Normally, it conveys polite but serious refusal, closer to ‘I prefer not to’, or even ‘I refuse’. Nevertheless, we recommend it because it is easier to say than the alternatives, which is important in a stressful situation like immersion. If you like, you can soften it by adding N *čaani* ‘for a while’.

### Section

- ∞ Exercise 1: conversation. With a partner, practise and familiarize yourselves with all of this unit’s conversations. Take turns speaking the (A) and (B) roles. Get at least three good repetitions before switching roles.

Out of all the phrases in this unit’s conversations, the four lifelines below are most worth memorizing, to use whenever you start to feel lost.

- |    |        |                   |                         |
|----|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| () | 1. CMQ | ʔaʔaquuk.         |                         |
|    | I      | ʔaʔaquk.          | What are you saying?    |
|    | B      | ʔaʔaquuḥak.       |                         |
|    | 2. Q   | huʔaasi waa.      | Say it again.           |
|    | BCT    | huʔaasʔi waa.     |                         |
|    | 3. Q   | kukumss suutił.   |                         |
|    | CT     | wiwikaps suutił.  | I don’t understand you. |
|    | B      | wiwikapamaḥ suwa. |                         |
|    | 4. Q   | wikáps.           | Let me not. I pass.     |
|    | BCT    | wikápis.          |                         |

- ∞ Exercise: lifelines. With a partner, practise the four basic lifelines in order. Partner A can talk about anything, in Nuuchahnulth if possible. Partner B cycles through the four lifelines, from ‘What are you saying?’, to ‘Let me not.’