

Unit 11. ʕaaʕaatıqa • ʕaaʕaataq • Thanks

11.1. Overview

In this unit, learners will work towards mastering the following skills.

- to give thanks appropriately for gifts, food, and hospitality
- to make sentences with complex predicates and embedded clauses
- to use causative and passive endings in prayers and requests

Words

maa	Here you go.	ʕuyii	give it to
ʕaakoo	Thank you.	qaacii.....	give it to
maaxtaqʕʕ.....	do a good deed	hinit(a)	invite it
ʕaaphiisił(a).....	do something kind	hahił.....	invite it along
ʕuuʕnaak	valuing it, grateful*	haaʕin.....	calling, inviting
ʕuuʕćikʕʕ ⁽⁺⁾	be useful	haawawiiqʕ	invite it to a meal
ʕataqʕʕ.....	thank, acknowledge	siqiił	cooking
ʕatiʕaqʕ C	grateful	haʕum	food, CTQ delicious
ćimqstup.....	make it happy	ćamis	sweet, B delicious
ʕuuʕaqstup B.....	make it (m) happy	hinitʕʕ.....	come to
ʕuuqsuuqstup B.....	make it (f) happy	ʕawiićʕ.....	go close to
ʕuł.....	good, beautiful	ʕawaʕii.....	go close to
ʕuyićʕ.....	become good	naaʕuuqst(a).....	participating
hiınaqst(a).....	spirit	ʕayaħooł	Welcome!
hiniı.....	give it to	ʕuımaaʕa B	welcome warmly

Conversations

1A	maa.....	Here you go.
1B	ćuu.....	Acknowledged.
1B	ʕaakoo.....	Thank you.
1B	maaxtaqʕʕic.	Thank you.
1B	ʕaaphiisiłaʕc.	Thank you.
1B	ćimqstupic siićił.....	Thank you.
1B	ʕaakoo waasiıʕ suutił.	Thank you.
2A	ʕaħkookic. *	Here you go.
2A	suwaasaʕic ʕaħ. *	This is yours now.
2A	ʕuyiımaʕqʕs ʕaħ suutił.....	I want to give you this.
2A	ʕataqʕaʕtic ʕaħkuu.	You are acknowledged with this.

- 2B čuu.....Acknowledged.
 2B ʔaakoo hin hiniyiik siičič. * Thank you for giving me it.
 2B ʔataqšʔs suutił. I thank, acknowledge you.
 3A haʔukšaʔaʔč! Start eating!
 3B ʔaakoo ʔin haʔukpiik siičič. Thank you for feeding me.
 3B ʔaakoo waasiiš yaqinteeł siqiił. * I thank those who cooked.
 3B haʔumkic haʔum. Your food is delicious.
 4A ʔayaḥooł! Welcome!
 4A ʔuyičaʔts hiḥaḥqst ʔin hinišʔiik. * I'm happy that you've come.
 4B ʔaakoo ʔin hiłʔapiik siičič. Thank you for having me.
 4B ʔaakoo ʔin hinitintiik siičič. Thank you for inviting me.

Conversation 1 provides several ways to say ‘thank you’, from informal to formal, using a situation of giving as an example. One important lesson to learn is that we say ‘thank you’ a lot less in Nuuchahnulth than we do in English. But when we do, there are many ways to give thanks, depending on the situation.

Next, conversations 2 through 4 exemplify thanks for gifts, food, and hospitality. Some of these sentences are formal, especially those using BCT ʔatiqšič, Q ʔataqšič.

The word BCT ʔeekoo, Q ʔaakoo varies in formality across dialects. Roughly speaking, it is considered rather formal in the middle of the coast, but is a more everyday word in the north and south. Ask your elders how this word is used in your community.

If you want a safe thank you that is appropriate in most situations, we recommend B ʔuušʔakšič, C ʔuuščakšič, T maaxtaqšič, Q ʔaakoo.

When you are thanked in the Nuuchahnulth way, the most important thing is to listen. You do not need to say anything in response, but if you do respond, it is usually enough to say čuu. There is no Nuuchahnulth expression for ‘you’re welcome’.

11.2. Notes and exercises

The basic thanks in conversation 1 are more meaningful than English *thank you*.

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|---|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| O | Q /maaxtaq-šič-ʔi'c/ | maaxtaqšič. | You have done a good deed. |
| | T /maaxtaq-šič-ʔi'c/ | maaxtaqšičʔic. | You have done a good deed. |
| | C /ʔuuš-čak-šič-ʔi'ck/ | ʔuuščakšičʔick. | You have been useful. |
| | B /ʔuuš-ʔak-šič-(m)e'ʔic/ | ʔuušʔakšičʔic. | You have been useful. |

- ∞ Analysis. Practise the basic thanks in conversation 1. Break them into their meaningful parts to understand what they are really saying. Some expressions are things that 'I' do to 'you', while others are the reverse. Which are which?

If your first language is English, then you probably say *thank you* many times a day. You may find that it takes time to break this habit. In Nuuchahnulth, the word *čuu*, or even silence, is often appropriate where you would say *thanks* in English.

- ∞ maa, čuu. Level 1. With a partner, practise handing things back and forth to each other, saying *maa, čuu* as appropriate. Level 2. Use sentences from conversation 2 to model various situations of giving. Partner B responds appropriately to A, with the proper level of formality.

The B side responses in conversation 3 are especially worth memorizing, because you will have many opportunities to use these, whenever someone feeds you. Do not be shy to give thanks for food! Our elders tell us that it is always appropriate to do so.

- ∞ Thanks for food. With a partner or alone, take turns standing up and giving thanks to those who feed you. Speak loudly. Don't be shy!