Unit 8. ʔuušwaay̓ak • ʔuušwaačak • ʔuušwaač̓k • Sentences

8.1. Overview

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

- to understand the structure of simple sentences
- to learn some common action words
- to use the article mood (–*ʔiˑ*)
- to distinguish words for 'how' from words for 'doing'

Words

ḥaakʷaaƛ	young woman	ƛakiis	standing
ḥaatḥaakʷaƛ	young women	ƛakiiɬ	standing (indoors)
ḥaaẁiɬaƛ	young man	ƛatẁaa CTQ	paddling
ḥaaẁiiḥaƛ	young men	ƛiḥaa	(vehicle) going
ċixʷatin	eagle	ƛiiḥak	paddling
čims	black bear	mamuuk	working
čapac̣	canoe	mataa	flying
huupuk̓ʷas	car, truck	nunuuk	singing
matuk	airplane	ṅaacsa	seeing it
ṁaʔakƛiqs	speedboat	suu	holding it
haʔuk	eating	susaa	swimming
huyaaɬ	dancing	yaacuk	walking
huuɬhuuɬa	dancing	weʔič	sleeping
kamitquk	running	ʔaaqinʔap	doing what (direct)
k̓umaa	pointing	qʷaaʔap	doing (what) (indirect)

Conversations

1A	ʔaaqinʔapḥa ċixʷatinʔi.	What is the eagle doing?
1B	mataama ċixʷatinʔi.	The eagle is flying.
1B	hayimḥimaḥ qʷaaʔapii.	I don't know what it's doing.
2A	ʔaaqinʔapḥa.	What is he, she, it doing?
2B	kamitqukma ḥaakʷaaƛʔi.	The young woman is running.
2B	nunuukma ḥaaẁiɬaƛʔi.	The young man is singing.
2B	ƛiiḥakma ɬuucsmeʔi.	The woman is paddling.
2B	huyaaɬma čakupʔi.	The man is dancing.

8.2. Notes

In order to communicate in Nuuchahnulth, you must speak in sentences. A *sentence* is one or more words that convey a complete idea. Most sentences are also clauses.

A *clause* is a combination of a predicate, participants, and mood. The *participants* are the people or things that the clause is about. The most important participant is called the *subject*. The *predicate* is an event or description that the participants are involved in. A *mood ending* completes the clause, agrees with its subject, and conveys other information as well.

Every clause includes a predicate and mood ending. They cannot be left out. But the participants can be left out, if they are already understood.

(1)

clause		
predicate	–mood ending	(participants)

In English, the first thing in a sentence is usually the subject, which is the most important participant. But in Nuuchahnulth, the first word is usually the predicate.

(2)

predicate	mood	participants	
ʔaaqinʔap	–ḥa.		What is he, she, it doing?
ṅaacsa	–ma	čakupʔi čims.	The man sees a bear.
naʔaa	–maḥ	suẁa.	I hear you.
ƛuł	–maa	yaa ʕiniiƛʔi.	That's a good dog.
čims	–maa	yee.	That's a bear over there.
yeeł	–maa	čimsʔii.	The bear is over there.
hitinqis	–ma	nani.	Grandpa is at the beach.
naʔaataḥ	–ʔi	nani.	Listen to Grandma.

Unit 9. qʷismiḥsaṗatii • qʷismaḥsaṗatii • qʷismaḥsaṗati • qʷismaʕaqƛptii* • Commands

9.1. Overview

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

- to use and respond to simple commands
- to correctly pronounce the effects of hardening (*!*)
- to distinguish continuous (CT), complete (CP), and repetitive (RP) aspect forms

Words

haʔukšiƛ	start eating	qʷis	do so
huułšiƛ	start dancing	sukʷiƛ	take it
kamitqšiƛ	start running	tuxšiƛ	jump
ḱupšiƛ	point	tuuxtuuxʷa	jumping
ƛakišiƛ	stand up	ṫiqʷaasiƛ	sit down on (platform)
ƛiiḥšiƛ	start paddling	wiinapuƛ	stop going
ƛupkšiƛ	wake up	yaacšiƛ	start walking
ƛ̓ułšiƛ	touch it	weʔičuƛ	go to sleep
matšiƛ	start flying	ʔucačiƛ	go to
nuuʔiƛ	start singing	łaakšiƛ	please
ṅašiƛ	look at	ẏuuqʷaa	also, too

Conversations

1A	ṫiqʷaasiʔi.	Sit down.
1B	čuu, ṫiqʷaasiƛʔaaqƛaḥ.	Okay, I'll sit down.
2A	naʔataḥʔis.	Listen to me.
2B	čuu, naʔataḥʔaaqƛaḥ suẇa.	Okay, I'll listen to you.
3A	nuuʔiʔa�̓in.	Let's start singing now.
3B	čuu, nuuʔiƛʔaaqƛ̓aƛin.	Okay, we'll sing now.

9.2. Notes

The command mood (*–!i·*) is used to tell someone to do something. The exclamation point (*!*) represents hardening, which hardens the preceding sound, or is pronounced as a glottal stop (*ʔ*). In Q, this stop can disappear.

(1)	wik	N	wik̓ii.			Don't!
	suu	N	suuʔii.			Hold it!
	waa	B	weeʔii.	CTQ	waaʔii.	Say it!
	naʔaataḥ	BCT	naʔaataḥʔi.	Q	naʔaatḥi.	Listen!

Aspect is an important grammatical category that has to do with the shape of events, and how smaller events fit into larger events. English verbs have up to three different aspect forms: plain, progressive, and perfect. Aspect is different from tense.

(2)	plain aspect	We speak.	We spoke.
	progressive aspect	We are speaking.	We were speaking.
	perfect aspect	We have spoken.	We had spoken.

Nuuchahnulth verbs occur in up to five aspects. The most important of these are the continuous (CT) and complete (CP) aspects.[1]

(3)	CT	qʷaaʔap	doing	suu	holding it	wawaa[d]	saying it
	CP	qʷis	do	sukʷiƛ	take it	waa	say it
	CT	mataa	flying	nunuuk	singing	yaacuk	walking
	CP	matšiƛ	start flying	nuuʔiƛ	start singing	yaacšiƛ	start walking

The next most important aspect is the repetitive (RP) aspect.[2]

(4)	CT	mitxʷaa	rotating	tuuxʷapi[d]	jumping
	RP	miitxmiitxʷa[d]	rotating	tuuxtuuxʷa[d]	jumping
	CP	mitxšiƛ	rotate	tuxšiƛ	jump
	CT	huyaał	dancing	ciqaa	speaking
	RP	huułhuuła[d]	dancing	ciiqciiqa[d]	speaking
	CP	huułšiƛ	start dancing	ciqšiƛ	start speaking

In order to gain an understanding of aspect, it might help to think of them in terms of the following symbols or paraphrases.

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[1] Q forms: huwaa 'saying'.
[2] Q forms: miitxmiitxʷ(a), tuuxʷap(a), tuuxtuux(ʷa), huułhuuł(a), ciiqciiq(a).

(5)   aspect   symbol   paraphrase

     continuous   ∼   'doing without beginning or end'
     repetitive   • • •   'doing repeatedly'
     complete   •   'do and be done', or 'start doing'