

**Unit 14. ?u?uk^wink ?e?iičim • ?u?uk^wink ?a?iičum •
?u?uk^wink ma?iixtuk • ?u?uk^wink ma?iixtk^w • Talking to elders**

14.1. Overview

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

- to maintain immersion in Nuuchahnulth
- to memorize some useful sentences for this purpose (“lifelines”)
- to encourage and support less advanced speakers

Words

?aqičła.....called what	huhtakšił..... learn (how)
q ^w ičłaa.....called what (indirect)	huuhtakšiih..... learning (how)
?a?aquu.....saying what	huuhtakšiih?ap.. teaching it (how)
waa.....say it	ħaaħuupa..... teaching it
wawaa.....saying it	ħaaħuupču..... taught, trained
ciiqciqa.....speaking	?apsčiik..... going the right way
ciiqciqasa.....speaking Nuuchahnulth	wiksčiik..... going the wrong way
quuquu?aca.....speaking Nuuchahnulth	łuu..... recalling it
maamaamaħniqa speaking English	łuučił..... recall, remember it
?ii?iiniša*.....speaking English	łuu?aap..... remind it
nana?a.....understanding it	nučħak..... proud, happy
wiwikapa.....not understanding it	kat?uk C..... proud
ħama?ap.....knowing it	hu?aas..... again
ħačik.....knowing how, skilled	łuułłuuł..... slow
huhtak.....knowing (how)	łułaatuk..... sounding good

Conversations

- 1A hu?aas?i waa. Say it again.
- 1A łuułłuuł?i ciiqciqa..... Speak slowly.
- 1A ?apsčiikħas. Am I saying it right?
- 1B čuu, hu?aas?aaqłah waa..... Okay, I will say it again.
- 1B čuu, łuułłuułaaqłah ciiqciqa..... Okay, I will speak slowly.
- 1B ?apsčiike?ic..... You’re saying it right.
- 1B wiksčiike?ic. You’re saying it wrong.
- 2A ?aqičłaha __..... What is __ called?
- 2A ?a?aquu?atħa?aala __..... How does one say __?
- 2A ?u?umħiħas __ waa. Can I say __?
- 2B __ wee?ii..... Say __.
- 2B __ ?ukłama..... It’s called __.

- 2B __ waaʔatmaʔaaʔa..... One says __.
- 2B hayimh̄imah̄ waaʔatiiʔaaʔa. I don't know how it's said.
- 3A quuquuʔaceʔi..... Speak Nuuchahnulth.
- 3A quuquuʔaceʔin..... Let's speak Nuuchahnulth.
- 3A wikii maamaamaʔniqa. Don't speak English.
- 3B čuu, quuquuʔacš̄iʔaaqʔaḥ. Okay, I'll speak Nuuchahnulth.
- 3B ʔuuš̄yákš̄iʔeʔic ʔuuʔaap siʔa. Thank you for reminding me.
- 4A ʔaʔaquuh̄ak..... What are you saying?
- 4A ʔaʔaquumiḥsah̄ak. What do you want to say?
- 4B __ waamitaḥ. I said __.
- 4B __ waamiḥsamah̄. I want to say __.
- 5A nanaʔaḥak wawaayiis. Do you understand what I'm saying?
- 5B nanaʔamah̄ wawaayiik. I understand what you're saying.
- 5B wiwikapamah̄ wawaayiik. I don't understand what you're saying.
- 5B wikap̄is. Let me not. I pass.
- 5B wik̄maamah̄. I can't.
- 5B huuxsʔatuʔin čaani. Let's take a break for a while.
- 6A ʔaḥʔaʔeʔic! Good for you!
- 6A ʔuʔaatuk^weʔic! You sound good!
- 6A huḥtakš̄iʔaʔeʔic! You got it!
- 6A nanaʔiičiʔaʔeʔic. You get it now.
- 6A nučḥaksameʔic siʔa. You have made me proud.
- 6A čamiḥtameʔic ḥaḥuupč̄u. 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. 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 will help you help others to stay in Nuuchahnulth. Conversations 4 and 5 enable you to discuss misunderstandings, as well as to gracefully pass. Last, conversation 6 gives you some ways to encourage others.

Conversation 5 includes the phrase BCT *wikap̄is*, Q *wikap̄s*. 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’.

14.2. Notes and exercises

Out of all the phrases in this unit’s conversations, the four lifelines below are most worth memorizing, and having ready to use as needed. Although can be used in various conversations, they are especially useful whenever you are starting to feel lost.

- 1. CMQ ?a?aquuk.
 I ?a?aquk. What are you saying?
 B ?a?aquuḥak.
2. Q hu?aasi waa.
 BCT hu?aas?i waa. Say it again.
3. Q kukumss suutiḷ.
 CT wiwikaps suutiḷ. I don’t understand you.
 B wiwikapamah suwa.
4. Q wikaps.
 BCT wikapis. Let me not. Don’t make me.

∞ Conversation. 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.’

