

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES LANGUAGE LESSON

Learner's Corner

How has this section been helping (or not helping) you so far? Feel free to contact the Culture & Heritage Dept. and offer your thoughts! So far we have covered a few common words and have looked at four action words. For each action word we have examined how it changes when you are talking in the past, present, or future. In this issue we will review what we've learned so far. Coming up, we'll cover a few more action words and look at different ways yet we can describe the time and behavior of actions.

Kiksht

(Wasq'u)

Review

Just as the word "see" would be the English root of the action phrase "I see it", the Kiksht action root is "qmit". As we saw in the last issue, Kiksht carries the "I" and "it" as additions to the action word. Action words follow this general sequence:

- tense (past, present, future) ¹
- subject marker (I, you, we, etc.) ²
- directional marker (to, from, etc.) ³
- root ⁴

Try to finish these sentences using the Kiksht knowledge you have picked up so far.

I see the longhouse.

∅ N(i) u qmit idat'qt itqwli
1 2 3 4
Niuqmit idat'qt itqwli.

You see the longhouse.

∅ idat'qt itqwli
1 2 3 4

She sees the longhouse.

∅
1 2 3 4
Axka

He sees the longhouse.

∅
1 2 3 4
Yaxka

They [two people] see the longhouse.

∅
1 2 3 4

They [more than two people] see the longhouse.

∅
1 2 3 4

We (all of us) see the longhouse.

∅
1 2 3 4
Alxaika

We (but not you) see the longhouse.

∅
1 2 3 4

Numu

(Paiute)

Review

Numu forms action words much differently than either Ichishkiin or Kiksht. Kiksht, Ichishkiin, and Numu all have in common, though, their use of "helper" phrases that are added to the end (or beginning) of certain words. In Numu, we can see that to put an action word into the future, a short group of letters is added to the end of the action word.

One thing you may have noticed by now, too, is that the action word always come at the end of a Numu sentence or phrase. In English, the customary ordering of a simple sentence is this: the subject is followed by the action word, which is followed by the object ("I drive the car"). In Numu the convention is this: the subject is followed by the object, which is followed by the action word ("I the car drive").

Now, try to fill in the blanks in these exercises!

I see the longhouse.

Nu ka oodunobe poone.

You see the longhouse.

U ka

(S)he sees the longhouse.

Oosoo

They see the longhouse.

Umu

We see the longhouse.

Nume

I will see the longhouse.

poo'nekwe.

You will see the longhouse.

(S)he will sees the longhouse.

They will see the longhouse.

(S)he will dance at the longhouse.

nuon

We will dance at the longhouse.

at the longhouse.

tunakwuhu

will sing at the longhouse.

Ichishkiin

(Sahaptin)

Review

Ichishkiin, like Kiksht, forms action words by combining a root with helpers attached in front of it and behind it. Ichishkiin action words are formed first by putting the word into the correct time with the correct subjects. As in the sentence, "I see the longhouse", the information of who (me) is seeing and when (the present) is conveyed simply with one word: aq'inushaash. The root in the case of the action word "to see" is: q'inu. Action words generally follow this format:

- initial marker (used for she, they, and others) ¹
- root ²
- tense ³
- subject and object information ⁴

Fill in the blanks to translate these English sentences into Ichishkiin:

I see the longhouse

A q'inu sha ash kaatnamna
1 2 3 4

Aq'inushaash kaatnamna.

You see the longhouse

1 2 3 4

They see the longhouse

1 2 3 4

We see the longhouse

1 2 3 4

I saw the longhouse

1 2 3 4

We saw the longhouse.

1 2 3 4

Answers:

- Maika emduqmit idat'qt itqwli.
- Axka duqmit idat'qt itqwli.
- Yaxka shduqmit idat'qt itqwli.
- Shduqmit idat'qt itqwli.
- Labiadiksh iduqmit idat'qt itqwli.
- Alxaika alquduqmit idat'qt itqwli.
- Endaima intduqmit idat'qt itqwli.

Answers:

- Aq'inushanam kaatnamna.
- Iq'inusha kaatnamna.
- Paq'inusha kaatnamna.
- Aq'inushatash kaatnamna.
- Aq'inunash kaatnamna.
- Aq'inushanetash kaatnamna.