

ʔuktisýak huhtakšiiḥ

A guide for learning to

ciiqciqasa

speak our own language

ħayuħu?ałniśsiiwá

We are glad to see you!

Kat?ukniš qʷaa?itqsuu

We are happy you want to

huhtaksiihmaħsa

practice and learn

ciiqciqasa

to speak our own language.



ħa?uukʷi?ath First Nation

Hałapi ḥawił (or ḥawaal)**

halth/a/pee hah/wilth (or hah/waalth)

Creator,

ƛ'eeekoo ?in ƛa?uč?ipik siičił naas.

tlek/oo/in tla/ooch/i/pik see/chilth naas

Thank you for giving us another day.

ƛ'eeekoo Hałapi ḥawaal or (ḥawilth)

?uħ?iš naananiqsu

tlek/oo halth/a/pee hah/waalth (or hah-wilth)

ooh/eesh na/nun/eeq/suu

Thank you Creator and Ancestors

yaɻatmitqin ?uyii?at ?aħkuu ciqýakukqin

ya/ut/mit/kin you/ee/ut ah/coo tseek/yuk/ook/qin

for this language provided for us.

Hupii?in ?a?apwá

hoo/pee/in ah/up/wa

Help us to say the right things.

taaqšii?in qutiis

taak/shee/in kuu/tees

Always guide us.

ƛ'eeekoo Hałapi ḥawaal (or hawił)

tlek/oo halth/a/pee hah/waalth (or hah/wilth)

Thank you Creator.

****Learning point****

Some of our Elders said “Hałapi ḥawaal” is for use when talking **to** the Creator, whereas “Hałapi ḥawił” would be more likely used when **talking about** the Creator.

Read, Play, Sing, Talk & Learn Together

When you read with a child, make sound effects, and say the language words when you have the opportunity.

When you see an animal, talk about the weather, say the body parts while bathing, or during cuddle time.

Make up your own silly songs, have fun! While brushing teeth, getting dressed, or going for a walk. Use a familiar tune or invent your own.

Explore your family's traditions when looking for songs to sing.

Have your child test you with language words that they already know.

Make your own language word lists or notes for around your house that remind you to use the language and how to pronounce.

Walk, run, skip, jump, and dance; to language words you are learning.

Listen to the language cd often, allow it to play while you eat with your family. It is our teaching to learn while we eat.

Relate what you are learning to everyday life.

Play guessing games of acting out language words (animals, weather, actions), allowing other family members to guess the actions.

The Nuu-chah-nulth alphabet has forty-five letters.
These are the letters in alphabetical order:

a sounds like "u" in cup ?aλa - two ?aya - many	aa sounds like "a" in mama ?aama - loon ?aasiiqsu - niece		
c sounds like "ts" in hats cuwit - coho	č like "ts" in hats said explosively ćimtuu - squirrel	č sounds like "ch" in chop čičiči - teeth čums - bear	č̄ like "ch" in "watch it" when said explosively. č̄apac - canoe
h sounds like "h" in hats huqsim - goose hicwin - dolphin	"back" h̄ Sounds like "h" when you clean your glasses. hawil - chief	i sounds like "i" in bit ?ink - fire ?inkčuu - lamp	ii sounds like "ee" in see ?iickʷin - mouse ?ih̄tuup - whale
k sounds like "k" in kite kakawin - orca kiwitaana - horse	ќ sounds like "k" in kite with a pop ќaa?in - crow ќiλanuu - fur seal	kʷ sounds like "qu" in queen kʷisaath̄ - stranger	kʷ sounds like "qu" in queen followed by a popping kʷiis - snow kʷakʷaλ - sea otter
t̄ like the sound after the "th" in athlete t̄uucma - woman t̄ciit - pregnant	ƛ̄ sounds like "tl" in whittling ƛ̄apisum - racoon ƛ̄išλin - foot	ƛ̄ explosive "λ"! ƛ̄učum - mussels ƛ̄ aaq - fat	
m sounds like "m" in mother muwač - deer muu - four	ḿ like "m" sound- made when hesitating m̄iλaa - raining	n sounds like "n" in neck nunuuk - singing nučii - mountain	ń sounds like "n" in neck pronounced forcefully ńiλaak - fighting

p sounds like "p" in pig piišpiš - cat paawac - nest	þ sounds like explosive "p" þapii - ear þuu?i - halibut	q say "ka-ka-ka" while moving tongue to back of mouth. qasii - eye	qʷ like "qu" pronounced in back of throat. qʷayačiik - wolf qʷinii - seagull
s sounds like "s" in spy suuhaa - salmon	š sounds like "sh" in shoes šuuwisi - shoes qu?ušin - raven	t sounds like "t" in Tom. tuškuh - ling cod tiičma - heart	t' sounds like "t'" while starting to spit t' ať uus - star
u sounds like "oo" in look čums - bear ?uxʷaapi - paddle	uu sounds like "oo" in boot uukʷiit - making muu - four	w sounds like "w" in water wa?ič - sleeping waañit - frog	w' sounds like a grunt before a w waa?ak - shy
x sounds like the "ch" in Loch Ness xaašxiip- blue jay xa?uumin- pigeon	x combines sound of "x" with clearing throat łaxaaas - plate	xʷ sounds of "x" rounded with "w" čixʷatin - eagle xʷakak - swollen	xʷ sounds like clearing throat with lips rounded muxʷaa - boiling
y sounds like "y" in yes yu?i - windy yaacuk - walking	ÿ a little grunt before the "y" niisýak - pot ye?isi- butter clam	ʕ pharyngeal - made by tensing throat as if to clear it. ʕaanus - crane	? glottal stop: used before a vowel when there is a pause and separates vowels
e sounds like "e" in bed	ee no english equivalent ?eepinis - apples	o sounds like "o" in go (note: some sources say it makes the sound "aw")	oo sounds like "o" in go ?oomi - mom.

Listen to the alphabet on the audio cd!

NUMBERS 1-20

1. c'awaak (tsa/walk)
2. ?aƛa (ah/tla)
3. qacc'a (kaats/tsa)
4. muu (moo)
5. suč'a (soo/cha)
6. níupu (noo/poo)
7. ?aƛpu (atl/poo)
8. ?aƛakʷał
(atl/a/kwalth)
9. c'awaakʷał
(tsa/waa/kwalth)
10. ɬayu (ha/yoo)

Listen to the Counting Song on the audio CD!

-
11. ḥayu ?uh?iiš c'awaak
(ha/yoo ooh/eesh tsa/walk)
 12. ḥayu ?uh?iiš ɬaɬa
(ha/yoo ooh/eesh ah/tla)
 13. ḥayu ?uh?iiš qacc'a
(ha/yoo ooh/eesh kaats/tsa)
 14. ḥayu ?uh?iiš muu
(ha/yoo ooh/eesh moo)
 15. ḥayu ?uh?iiš suč'a
(ha/yoo ooh/eesh soo/cha)
 16. ḥayu ?uh?iiš n̄upu
(ha/yoo ooh/eesh noo/poo)
 17. ḥayu ?uh?iiš ɬaɬpu
(ha/yoo ooh/eesh atl/poo)
 18. ḥayu ?uh?iiš ɬaɬakʷał
(ha/yoo ooh/eesh atl/a/kwalth)
 19. ḥayu ?uh?iiš c'awaakʷał
(ha/yoo ooh/eesh tsa/walk/kwalth)
 20. c`aqiic (tsa/keets)



Body ?usit (oo/sit)

1. p'ap'ii (pa/pee) ears
2. qasii (ka/see) eyes
3. nic'a (ni/tsa) nose
4. čičiči (chee/chee/chee) teeth
5. čuup (choop) tongue
6. hapsy'up (haps/yoop) hair
7. ġiščin (tlish/tlin) feet

FINGERS & HANDS

1. k'ałk'a (kalth/ka) pinky
2. ?u?ac`u (oo/a/tsoo) or
qałaat'ak
(qalth/aa/tahk) ring
3. tyii (ty/ee) middle
5. k'upy'ak (koop/yahk) pointer
6. ?iiḥkumc (eeh/koomts) thumb



Colours

1. ḥ'iħuk (tlee/hook) red
2. ḥ'isuk (tlee/sook) white
3. tupkak (toop/kahk) black
4. kistaqak (kis/ta/kahk) green
5. pipick'uk (pee/peets/kook) orange
6. wašuk (wash/ook) brown
7. kinic'ak (keen/ee/tsahk) blue
8. ḥicpiqak (hits/pee/kahk) yellow
9. ḥ'iħpiqak (tlee/pee/tsahk) pink
10. ḥiw'aħp'iqak (tlee/wah/pee/qahk) grey
11. ḥiniiħak - rainbow (tlin/ee/hahk)

Game of “I spy” Mom? Dad?
Waasi (waa/see) means where!



m'iłaa
(mee/tla)
rainy

yu?ii (yoo/ee)

~ windy

małaa (ma/lthaa)

~ cold

m'iłaaḥ (mee/tla/hh)

Is it raining?

m'iłaa?iš

(mee/tla/eesh)

It is raining.



ł'upaa
(tloo/pa)
sunny/hot

wik?iiš m'iłaa

(wik/eesh mee/tla)

It isn't raining.



m'ałaa
(ma/lthaa)
cold

?uu?uuquk

(ooh/ooh/qook)

nice weather or
nice scenery

Try a conversation!

?uu?uuqukh (ooh/ooh/qook/h)?

Is it nice weather?

?uu?uuquk?iš

(ooh/ooh/qook/eesh)

It is nice weather.



wiiqsi
(week/see)
stormy

wiiwiiqukiš (wee/wee/qook/eesh)

It isn't nice weather.



hupał (hoo/pulth) moon

hupał (hoo/pulth) sun

ćixʷatin (tsi/kwa/tin) eagle



qʷinii (qwin/ee) seagull



kakawin (kah/kah/win)
killer whale

ɬiiniiɬ (een/eetl) dog



suuhā (soo/ha)
chinook salmon

muusmuus (moos/moos) cow

čums (chooms) black bear



ka?in (kah/in) crow

Practicing Conversation

Waasiḥ tamuuk?i? (waa/see/h ta/mook/ee)
Where's the kingfisher?

Naḥcas tamuuk?i. (nah/tsas ta/mook/ee)
I see the kingfisher.

N'aaci čiƛ̓mitk tamuuk?i?
(Na/tsee chitl/mitk ta/mook/ee)
Do you see the kingfisher?

Introduction to our grammar

Ending -?iš (eesh) means “He, she or it is”

Example: muusmuus?iš (moos-moos-eesh) It is a cow.

čums?iš (chooms-eesh) It is a black bear.

tamuuk (ta/mook)
kingfisher



1. ?um?iiqsu (oom/eek/soo) mom
2. ñuvíiqli (noo/week/soo) dad
3. tana (tah/nah) child
4. naniqsi (na/neek/soo) grandparent

?uhuks ?um?iiqsu...

(ooh/hooks oom/eek/soo) My mother is...

?uhuks ñuvíiqli...

(ooh/hooks noo/week/soo) My father is...

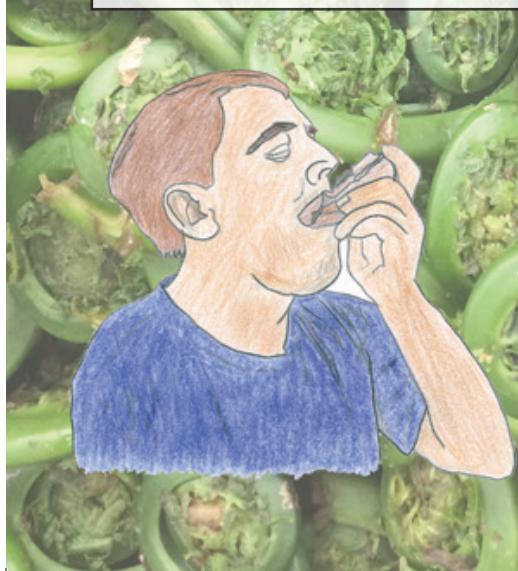
?uklaas... (ook/lthas) My name is...



Taqyačiʔi (taq/ya/chee/ee) stand up
tuxšiƛ (toohk s/shitl) jump
yaacuk (yaa/tsook) walk
hatiis (ha/tees) bathe



tiqʷaas?i (ti/kwas/ee)
sit down (telling)
naʔaatah (na/ah/tah) listen
haʔuk (ha/ook) eat
waʔič (wah/eech) sleep



Note: when you see a verb ending in the sound “ee” it is most likely a command.

Words for school

Ȿiisýak (tlees/yak) pen or pencil

načaalýak (na/chalth/yak) book

haa (haa) yes

wik (wick) no

t`ašii (ta/shee) door or path

ka?aa (kah/aa) give it to me

?uhtasa?i (ooh/ta/sah/ee) you behave

Words & Phrases for Teachers & Parents

Did you wash your hands? (to one person)

Cučinkałmitk? (tsoo/tsink/atl/mitk)

and if speaking to 2 or more:

Cučinkałmitħsuum? (tsoo/tsink/atl/mit/h/soo)

Time to make the room nice and clean.

Čuu ḥułmipitapin (choo tlooth/mi/pi/tahp/in)

My name is ____.

?ukłaaš or ?ukłaaśiš

(ook/lthas or ook/lthas/eesh)

I come from the house of ____

hisakʷistas____ (hees/a/kwis/tas)

I am from

histaqšiħs ____ (hees/tahq/shitls)

Quit fooling around, do it right!

(to one person)

Uuh tassa?i (ooh/ta/sah/ee)

(to two or more people)

Uuh tassa?iċ (ooh/tas/a/ich)

Don't do that.

Wikiqʷaa?ap (wick-ee-qwa-up)

We are friends.

?uuksča?instaňniš. (Ooks-cha-in-stalth-nish)

Snack time.

Čuu ha?ukši?in or Čaanii in ha?uk
(chu/ha/ook/she/in or chon/nee/in/ha/ook)

We're going to work on 7-days of the week.

?uut'aq witasniš ?aļpu čił.
(Ooh/tahq wit/ahs/nish atl/poo cheelth)

Let's go home.

Čuu waļši?aļin (choo walth/she/atl/in)

What is your favourite food? (to one person)

?aaqikʷapk ha?um? (Ah/qee/kwahpk ha/oom)
(and if you're talking to two or more people)
?aaqikʷapħsuum ha?um?
(Ah/qee/kwahp/h/soo ha/oom)

My favourite food is ____.

?uukʷaps ____.(Oo/kwahps ____.)

Walk quietly. (talking to one person)

Kuuqaa?i (coo/ka/ee)
(talking to 2 or more people)
Kuuqaa?ic (coo/ka/eets)

Quiet voice.

Wisaqsuł. (Wis/ahq/soolth)

The quiet voice that you are thinking inside.

Taļtaqł (ta/pa/taqtł)

We're going to tell stories.

Čuu huumwica (or himwica) ?aqƛniš.

(Choo hoom/wits/a/ (or heem/wits/a)
aqtl/neesh)

This is my friend (when referring to
“this person”).

?uuksčaʔins ?ahkuu (ooks/cha/ins ah/koo)
and when we’re referring to him or her
?uuksčaʔins hił. (ooks/cha/ins/hilth)

Did you see the whale?

Ñaaci čiƛmitk ?iihtuup?i?
(Na/tsee chitl/mitk ee/h/toop/ee)

Did you see the bear?

Ñaaci čiƛmitk čums?i?
(Na/tsee chitl/mitk chooms/ee)

I saw it splash.

Ñaaci čiƛmits kʷaxšiƛmit?i.
(na/tsee chitl/mits kwakhs/shitl/mit/ee)

Splash of any kind

kʷaxšiƛ (kwakhs/shitl)

I saw salmon jumping!

Ñaaci čiƛmits suuha ƛihatšiƛ!
(na/tsee chitl/mits soo/ha tle/haht/shitl)

salmon splashing

ƛihatšiƛ (tle/haht/shitl)

TELLING TIME

Minute hand has gone past the hour

Kicpiqa (kits/pee/qa)

5 minutes (the hand has gone past the top of the clock by 5 minutes)

Sučapit kicpiqa (soo/cha/pit kits/pe/qah)

you only have

?unananak ?aλ?ick (oon/a/nahk ahtl/itsk)

play

?uumčaap (oom/chahp)

You only have five minutes to play

?unananak ?aλ?ick sučapit kicpiqa ?uumčaap
(oon/a/nahk ahtl/itsk soo/cha/pit
kits/pee/qa oom/chahp)

Different ways of using the verb “to play out”

Playing out

λaa?uum?as (tla/oom/ahs)

You go play out.

λaa?uum?as či (tla/oom/ahs/chee)

We're going to play out.

λaa?uum?as wit'asniš (tla/oom/ahs wi/tahs/nish)

Let's all play out.

λaa?uum?as?in (tla/oom/ahs/in)

You're playing out

λaa?uum?ahs?ick (tla/oom/ahs/itsk)

I'm playing out

λaa?uum?as siš (tla/oom/ahs/sish)

We're playing out!

λaa?uum?as niš (tla/oom/ahs/nish)

He, she or it is playing out.

λaa?uum?as?iš (tla/oom/ahs/ish)

Time to go for a walk.

Čuu yacpanač?in (choo yahts/pahn/ahch/in)

Time to wash mouth and teeth

Čuu čumałcuqʷa ?uh?iš čičiči (choo tsoo/malth/tsoo/qwa ooh/eesh chee/chee/chee)

Flushing the toilet

To tell someone to flush the toilet,
use word for pour/flush it down as a command
Tictiilapi (Tits/teelth/ahp/ee)

And if you want to ask

“Did you flush the toilet?”

Tictiilapmitk? (Tits/teelth/ahp/mitk)

LET'S ALL HELP EACH OTHER.

Let us all, Hiišuu?in (he/shoo/in)

Work, Mamuuk (ma-mook)

Let us all work.

Hiišuu?in mamuuk (he/shoo/in ma/mook)

Helping each other

Hupiitstał (hoo/peet/stalh)



Let's all help each other.

Hiišuu?in Hupiitstał?in

(he/shoo/in hoop/eet/stalh/in)

Let us all

Hišuu?in (he/shoo/in)

Make something

?ukʷiil (oo/kweelth)

Let's all make something

Hišuu?in ?ukʷiil (he/shoo/in oo/kweelth)

Looking for 1000 Heroes!!

To Save Our Language

WE NEED YOU!

**PROUDLY SHARING YOUR FAMILY'S
&**

**PERSONAL LANGUAGE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS.**

**SPEAK TO OUR ELDERS & OTHER
NUUCHAHNULTH.**

SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

GRATITUDE

Hamipniš ḥałapi ḥawaal (or ḥawił)
(ha/mip/neesh halth/a/pee hah/walth or hah-wilth))
We recognize God as our Creator or Naas

ƛ'eeekoo waniš naas?ii
(tlek/oo wa/neesh naas/ee)
We say thank you for this day

?uh?iiš ƛ'eeekoo tiičmis
(ooh/eesh tlek/oo teech/mis)
And thank you for my life

?uh?iiš ƛ'eeekoo ha?um?i
(ooh/eesh tlek/oo hah/oom/ee)
And thank you for this food

?uh?iiš ƛaakšił ḥa?akap ɿuýi
(ooh/eesh tlaak/shilth hah/ahk/ahp yoo/ee)
And please bless our food

This book was created by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation with contributions by the following Elders, Artists, Language Activists, & Organizations:

Our Elders & First Speakers:

Kaamath (Levi Martin)
Nuu-piit-tacił (Moses Martin)
Yaawa (Dora Frank)

Our artists, language activists & supporting organizations:

NEDC
?aamanuusaqsuup ~ (Marika Swan)
Andrea Fergusson
Čematuuk (Carla Moss)
Čuułcaa (Gene Antoine)
Haakumał (Iris A. Frank)
λaʔuuk (Gisele Martin)
λaqʷakiina (Wiya Martin)
Thlyik (Carol Frank)
λaqʷatsi (Ivy Robinson Martin)

Žeekoo, Žeekoo!!!



The Alphabet Song - as interpreted by Umpta (Caroline Little), used with permission from her grandson Kle-his-a-too (Alex Masso Jr). Gratitude to her daughter, Chi-ilth-umqua (Anna Masso) for connecting us.

Gratitude to our many inspirational leaders in Nuuchahnulth Language Revitalization.

