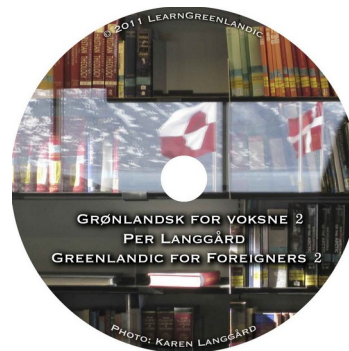


Chapter 5



Today's news and objectives

Learn how to ask a few questions using the interrogative mood (henceforward Int). By the end of today's exercises you will be able to handle more than 1,000 wordforms.

You will observe that today's exercises introduce only a few new items but you will most likely also observe that playing with the new derivational morphemes forces you to have a lot on your plate. But do not worry! I know from personal experience that it is doable after all.

Play with another derivational morpheme added to nouns. You know it already from lesson 5

N-U to be N

Play with a new important derivational morpheme added to verbs

Vb-NNGIT to not Vb

The first things about asking questions

V+Int+2Sg = {vit}¹ (interrogative mood 2. person singular = *You verb?*)

V+Int+2Sg+3SgO = {viuk} (interrogative mood 2. person singular with 3. person singular object = *You verb him/her/it?*)

Clarifying a thing about mood-morphemes:

Greenlandic does not have a stock of conjunctions such as *because, if, that* etc. Instead a mandatory part of the verb called the mood-morpheme tells the verb's function.

This far you've seen only two indicative morphemes

- {+vu} (varying with {+pu} after consonants) is intransitive indicative as in *tikip{+vunga} → tikippunga* (I arrive)
- {+va} (varying with {+pa} after consonants) is transitive indicative as in *naapip{+vara} → naapippara* (I met him/her)

but today a new mood morpheme is introduced

- {+vi} (varying with {+pi} after consonants) is interrogative mood for second person intransitive and transitive alike

Vb-NNGIT has a unique behaviour in the indicative mood as it replaces both {+vu} and {+va} with {-la}.

E.g.

I am bad (ajor {+vunga}) = *ajorpunga*

I am not bad/ I am good (ajor -NNGIT {-langu}) = *ajunngilangu*

1 Remember that /v/ turns /p/ after consonant. Hence *suli+{vit} → sulivit*, whereas *aallar+{vit} → aallarpit*

You will as in the preceding chapters

- (i) continue training the skill you cannot be without namely the two-sided ability to perceive surface words and at the same time to produce words out of abstract bits and pieces underlying the surface words you hear
- (ii) understand the wordforms you know by now in context
- (iii) form a few simple sentences

Lexical material you need to know to manage today's exercises besides words you already are familiar with from lessons 1-5

Vb

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| ajor- | to be bad |
| pikkorip- | to be skilled |
| qujaannar- | to reject |
| taku- | to see (object) |
| utoqqatser- | to excuse |

Adverbs

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| aap | yes |
| aqaguagu | day after tomorrow |
| ippassaq | yesterday |
| naamik | no |

What you need to know about processes and changes (phonology)

Adding to your knowledge:

- Any vowel adjacent to an /a/ will itself become /a/. Hence *pizza-U+vuq* (*It is pizza*) will be *pizzaavoq*
- Greenlandic orthography holds a few superfluous rules. One such says that **uvi*, **uve* and **uva* (but not *uvu* and *uvo*!) must be spelled without /v/ as *ui*, *ue* and *ua*. Accordingly e.g. *taku{+vara}* (I saw him/her/it) is misspelled as **takuvvara* and correct as *takuara*. The rule is purely orthographical. **takuvvara* and *takuara* both share the same pronunciation.
- GUSUP comes with a speciality as it changes /g/ to /r/ after vowel. Hence *taku + GUSUP + I_him* will NOT be **takugusuppara*, rather *takorusuppara* (I want to see him/her/it) and *suli + GUSUP + I* will NOT be **suligusuppunga* but *sulerusuppunga* (I want to work). Note that this behaviour is special for GUSUP so do not bring it with you to other morphemes in /g/
- {vu} normally reduces to {a} after -SSA. Hence *suli -SSA {+vunga}* (work future I) will not be **sulissavunga* as expected but *sulissaanga*. Please observe that this phenomenon only occurs with SSA + {vu}. Accordingly *naapip -SSA {+vara}* (meet future I_him) will be *naapissavara* as expected. As a matter of facts the rule applies with only about 4% of all occurrences of -SSA in running text so do not overdo this exception. If in doubt it is better to underdo it. **sulissavunga* will maybe call for a smile but it will

always be understood whereas **naapissaara* most likely will be gibberish in native ears.