**Education Center Staff Nisenan Class: Basic Commands**

**Review sheet for Monday, September 25, 2023**

In today’s class we learned how to give some commands to groups of people or individuals:

1. Basic commands like ‘Stop!’ and ‘Stand up!’
2. Commands involving objects, like ‘Take the \_\_\_\_\_’ and ‘Show me the \_\_\_\_\_.’

**How to give commands to 2 or more people**

Some of you have played *Uk’oywá!* with Language Department staff. The name of this game is a command to 2 or more people meaning ‘(You all) Go!’. Here are some other useful commands directed at 2 or more people:

*Iskit****wá*** *!* ‘(You all) Sit down!’

*Dəkə****wá****!* ‘(You all) Stand up!’

*Hati****wá****!* ‘(You all) Stop!’

*Mee****wá*** *mɨyé!*  ‘(You all) Take it!’

**How to give commands to a single person**

Here are the same commands as above, but directed at a single person:

*Iskít!* ‘Sit down!’

*Dəkə́****p****!* ‘Stand up!’

*Hatí****p****!* ‘Stop!’

*Mee****p*** *mɨyé!* ‘Take it!’

We can see that commands to multiple people end with -*wa*. To form a command directed at just one person, remove the -*wa* suffix. For some verbs you then add -*p* (as in *Hatíp!* ‘Stop!’) while for other verbs you add nothing (as in *Iskít* ‘Sit down!’). How do you know when to add -*p*?

Verb ends in a vowel → add -*p*

Verb ends in a consonant → add nothing

*Esak’ábe mi?* Do you know? Nisenan words never end in a sequence of two consonants.

**How to give commands involving objects**

What if you want to tell people to take a specific object? Here are a few useful objects:

*Mom* ‘Water’

*Papél* ‘Paper’

*Boonóyu* ‘Pencil/Pen’

*Sɨk’ə́lyu* ‘Scissors’

Here’s how to tell an individual personal to take each of these objects.

*Meep mom****í***. ‘Take *mom*.’ (water)

*Meep papel****í****.* ‘Take *papél*.’ (paper)

*Meep boonóyu.* ‘Take *boonóyu*.’ (pencil/pen)

*Meep sɨk’ə́lyu.*  ‘Take *sɨk’ə́lyu*.’ (scissors)

Notice that some of these nouns get -*i* added at the end. In Nisenan sentences, the object of the verb (i.e. the thing that something is being done to) is sometimes indicated with the suffix -*i*. How do you know when to add -*i*?

Noun ends in a vowel → add nothing

Noun ends in a consonant\* → add -*i*

\*There is one exception, which we’ll talk about in the future.

Please reach out to the Language Department at [Language@ssband.org](mailto:Language@ssband.org) with any questions.