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

**Review sheet for Wednesday, October 30, 2023**

We’ve been learning how to command people to do things. In today’s class we learned how to tell people ***not*** to do things.

**Telling one person not to do things…**

We’ve learned verbs like *mey* ‘to give’ and *dəkə* ‘to stand’ and how to order a single person to do those things (we add the suffix -*p* to verbs that end in a vowel and add nothing to verbs that end in a consonant). How do we tell a person ***not*** to do those things? Compare these two commands:

*Mey nik mɨyé!*  ‘Give it to me!’

*Meymén nik mɨyé!* ‘Don’t give it to me!’

What changed? We added the suffix -*men* to the verb. What do you think happens when we put -*men* on a verb that ends in a vowel, like *dəkə* ‘to stand’? Compare these two commands:

*Dəkə****p****!*  ‘Stand!’

*Dəkəmén!* ‘Don’t stand!’

Since *dəkəmén* ends in a consonant, we do **not** add the suffix -*p*. This tells us that the negation suffix -*men* gets put on the verb **before** the command suffix -*p* (so we don’t say *\*Dəkəpmén*). We can add -*men* to other verbs we know, like *iskit* ‘to sit’ and *etati* ‘to show’:

*Iskít!*  ‘Sit!’

*Iskitmén!* ‘Don’t sit!’

*Etatíp nik mɨyé!* ‘Show it to me!’

*Etatimén nik mɨyé!* ‘Don’t show it to me!’

**Telling a group of people not to do things…**

We saw that we put the negation suffix -*men* on the verb before we add the singular command suffix -*p*. It works the same way with the plural command suffix -*wa*.

*Uk’oywá!* ‘You all, go!’

*Uk’oymenwá* ‘You all, don’t go!’

*Meywá nik mɨyé!*  ‘You all, give me *mɨyé*!’ (it)

*Meymenwá nik mɨyé!* ‘You all, don’t give me *mɨyé*!’ (it)

*Meewá papelí!*  ‘You all, take *papél*!’ (paper)

*Meemenwá papelí!*  ‘You all, don’t take *papél*!’ (paper)

**Don’t do it!**

The verb *k’aa* means ‘to do’. Here are some commands with the verb *k’aa* that might be useful.

*K’aap!* ‘Do it!’ (to one person)

*K’aamén!* ‘Don’t do it!’ (to one person)

*K’aawá!* ‘You all, do it!’

*K’aamenwá!* ‘You all, don’t do it!’

**Practice**

The commands below are addressed to just one person. Fill in the blanks.

(1) *Hatíp!*  ‘**Stop**!’

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!* ‘Don’t **stop!’**

(2)***Mey*** *nik momí!* ‘**Give** me *mom*!’ (water)

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nik momí!* ‘Don’t give me *mom*!’ (water)

(3)***Meep*** *sɨk’ə́lyu!* ‘**Take** *sɨk’ə́lyu*!’ (scissors)

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sɨk’ə́lyu!* ‘Don’t take *sɨk’ə́lyu*!’ (scissors)

(4) ***Etatíp*** *nik papelí!*  ‘**Show** me *papél*!’ (paper)

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nik papelí!* ‘Don’t show me *papelí*!’ (paper)

The commands below are addressed to a group of people. Fill in the blanks.

(5) ***Iskitwá****!* ‘**You all, sit**!’

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*!* ‘You all, don’t sit!’

(6) ***Meewá*** *inpaayutíyu!* ‘**You all,** **take** *inpaayutíyu*!’ (staplers)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *inpaayutíyu!* ‘You all, don’t take *inpaayutíyu*!’ (staplers)

(7) ***Etatiwá*** *nik mimée maa!* ‘**You all, show** me your *maa*!*’* (hands)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *nik mimée maa!* ‘You all, don’t show me your *maa*!’ (hands)

(8) ***K’aawá****!* ‘**You all, do it**!’

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*!* ‘You all, don’t do it!’

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

This review sheet, recordings of the language from this lesson, and solutions to the practice exercises above are available at <https://bit.ly/ssbmieducationcenter>.