

Verb prefixes

Always in this order

- ➊ Imperative/optative marker
mā if, let it be
tlā if, let it be (please)
māca[mō] mā + ahmō
tlāca[mō] tlā + ahmō
- ➋ Negative marker
ah not, un-
ahmō not, no
- ➌ Antecessive prefix
ō already
- ➍ Subject pronoun
sg. pl.
1 ni- ti-
2 ti-¹ am-/an-¹
3 ø- ø-
¹ xi- if optative
- ➎ Definitive object pronoun
sg. pl.
1 nēch- tēch-
2 mitz- amēch-
3 c-/qui- quim-/im-
- ➏ Directional marker
huāl hither
on thither
- ➐ Reflexive pronoun
sg. pl.
1 no- to-
2 mo- } -self, -selves
3 mo- }
- ➑ Indefinite object pronoun
tē- someone, people
tla- something, stuff

Verb classes

- Cl 1 Vbs in -VCCV
- Cl 2 Vbs in -VCV
- Cl 3 Vbs in -VV
- Cl 4 One-syllable Vbs in -a
- Exceptions
 - Vbs in -Co, -tla, -ca: Cl 1
 - Intransitive Vbs in -hua: Cl 1
 - One-syllable Vbs in -i: Cl 1
 - Transitive Vbs in -hua: Cl 2
 - Vbs in -ya: Cl 1 or 2
 - tōna be warm, pāca wash: Cl 1 not 2
 - zōma become angry: Cl 4 not 2

Verbal bases

B 1 is the dictionary form. Other bases are derived as follows:

	B 2	B 3
Cl 1	B 2 = B 1	B 3 = B 1
Cl 2	-V > -ø	B 3 = B 1
Cl 3	-V > -h	-V ₁ V ₂ > -V ₁ :
Cl 4	-h	-V > -V:

Example

	B 1	B 2	B 3
Cl 1	chōca-	chōca-	chōca- cry
Cl 2	yōli-	yōl-	yōli- live
Cl 3	āltia-	āltih-	ālti- bathe
Cl 4	cua-	cuah-	cuā- eat

Tense/Mood endings

Tense/Mood	B	sg.	pl.
Present	1	-ø	-h
Habitual	1	-ni ¹	-nih ¹
Imperfect	1	-ya ²	-yah
Preterite	2	-c ³	-queh
Pluperfect	2	-ca	-cah
Admonitive	2	-h ³	-(h)tin ³
Future	3	-z	-zqueh
Optative	3	-ø	-cān
Conditional	3	-zquiya	-zquiyah

¹ Preceding V lengthened

² Preceding V lengthened except Cl 1

³ Only Cl 1, otherwise -ø

Irregular verbs

- ➊ cā/ye be

	sg.	pl.
Present	cah	cateh
Imperfect	yeya	yeyah
Preterite	catca	catcah
Future	yez	yezqueh
- ➋ huītza go

	sg.	pl.
Present	huītz	huītzeh
Imperfect	huītza	huītzah
- ➌ yā/huih come

	sg.	pl.
Present	yauh	huih
Imperfect	yāya	yāyah
Preterite	yah	yahqueh
Future	yāz	yāzqueh
- ➍ huāllā/huālhuih come

	sg.	pl.
Pres.	huāllauh	huālhuih
Impf.	huālhuiya	huālhuiyah
Pret.	huāllah	huāllahqueh
Fut.	huāllaz	huāllazqueh

Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary verbs specify physical position of the main verb, condition under which the main verb takes place and mark aspect, and are made as follows:

- ➊ The main verb in the preterite stem
- ➋ Ligature morpheme -t(i)-
- ➌ The auxiliary verb, bearing tense and number

Verb	Ind.	Aux.
cah	be	be Vb-ing
ēhua	rise	depart Vb-ing
huetzi	fall	Vb quickly
huītza	come	come Vb-ing
ihcac	stand	stand Vb-ing
mani	be, cover	be Vb-ing
nemi	live	go about Vb-ing
(on)oc	lie	lie Vb-ing
quiza	emerge	pass Vb-ing
yauh ¹	go	be Vb-ing

¹ ti+yauh > -tiuh

Verbs of purposive motion

Purposive motion suffixes take the present stem

		Come	Go
Pres./Pret.	sg.	-co	-to
	pl.	-coh	-toh
Future	sg.	-quiuh	-tiuh
	pl.	-quihuih	-tihuih
Optative	sg.	-qui	-h, -ti
	pl.	-quih	-tih, tin

Verb suffixes

- ➊ Causative
-(l)tia cause to Vb
- ➋ Passive
-(l)ø
-(o)hua } be Vb'ed
-hualø
- ➌ Applicative
-i(l)ia do Vb for someone

A reflexive prefix combined with either a causative or an applicative suffix creates a reverential verb

Example

niquittato I went to see it

Literature consulted

- ➊ Andrews, J. Richard. *Introduction to Classical Nahuatl*. Rev. ed. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2003. 678 pp.
- ➋ Jordan, David K. *Brief Notes on Classical Nahuatl*. URL: <https://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/nahuatl/nahuatl.html>.
- ➌ Lockhart, James. *Nahuatl as Written: Lessons in Older Written Nahuatl with Copious Examples and Texts*. Nahuatl Studies Series 6. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2001. 251 pp.