

Sahaptin Indian language 109.

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October 23, 1997

To: Student

The mid-term test was based on the past lessons in 'colors' and pictograms.

The pictograms show questions and answers about wearing clothing and other verbs.. The lecture on the clothing was to explain how the Sahaptin language often converts a common noun into a verb.

Example: kayli is a common noun meaning 'shoe' in English. The reason it is called that is because kay- means 'hard' which is the sole of the shoe. -li would indicate that it would 'resemble' something with a hard sole.....a shoe. However, the moccasin is not called kayli, because it has a soft sole, and is called lk'am, because it's made of buckskin.

Now when Sahaptin converts a common noun into a verb by adding -sha, is the suffix 'ing'; kayli'isha putting on shoes, becomes a verb, because it is an action. You learned that anything the indicates 'action' is a verb or adverb. So: Tun nam kayli'isha? What shoe are you wearing? It is the same for kapuu (coat),and (hat) takmaal.

The other verbs, iniix- in the pictogram means "to fix" or "to repair" something. You should know "tima- means to "write"; and tkwata- "to eat"; tk'i –is a verb stem that means to "look at (to see)". The a-prefix is a marker to let you know that there is an object at the end of the sentence, the object is what you are looking at.

iwa (is) is a 3rd person, singular of the verb "be" in English. "Ichi" is a pronoun indicating a person or thing that is close by, and "tun" is a pronoun indicating what subject (thing or person) you are talking about.

Ikw'ak means that which is a pronoun indicated (explained this way in Sahaptin) a pronoun further away from the speaker. Ichi is closer to the speaker.

Tuman is a plural of tun, and the objective pronoun has to be plural also. k'usi, is one horse; kusima is plural, more than two horses.

The colors are basic. You were given a color code during one class session. I believe everyone was present during that session. Study the color code, and you won't have any trouble with colors, until we discuss off-color adjectives, such as lighter colors.

I hope this will help you. I want to continue to the next phase of our language study. Ten students with 75% correct in this test will help us to continue on to the next phase.