

**SAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE I/II
Virginia Beavert, Developer-Instructor
Heritage College, Toppenish, WA 98948**

Revised 8/3/01

DAYS OF THE WEEK IN SAHAPTIN

Days of the week in the Indian language is based on when the Creator first created the Earth and all creatures. In accordance with different interpretations, Indian tribes describe it in different ways. For this text, the time will begin on what is called "Tuesday" the common days during which He labored.

Náplkw'i	Tuesday	Day two: First day creation began.
Mítákw'i	Wednesday	Third day: Second day of creation.
Pináplkw'i	Thursday	Fourth day: Third day of creation.
Páxalkw'i	Friday	Fifth day: Fourth day of creation.
Tamáts'aakt	Saturday	"It (time) is near." <i>Time is drawing near.</i>
Sapálwit		Common everyday Sunday
Pachwáywit	Holy Day	The day the Creator rested. <i>Day of rest</i>
Wának'it	Monday	"It is finished."

When you look closely to the spelling of the days. The common days have a word *kw'i* at the end. In Sahaptin *kw'i* means day. Four days are numbered in cardinal numbers in English.

<u>Sahaptin</u>	<u>English numbers</u>	<u>Numbering Indian People</u>
Naxsh	One 1.	laxs tiin (one person)
Niip	Two 2.	nápu tiinin (two people)
Mitaat	Three 3.	mitaaw tiinma (three people)
Piníip	Four 4.	pínapu tiinma
Páxaat	Five 5.	páxnaaw tiinma

Ptáxninsh	Six	6.	ptáxninshima
Túskaas	Seven	7.	túskaasima
Paxát'umaat	Eight	8.	paxát'umaatima
Ts'míst	Nine	9.	ts'místima

Pay particular attention to the endings when describing the numbers for people. At the beginning description for one person is *láxs*, for two people *nápu*, three people *mítaw*, for four people *pínapu*, and for five people *páxnaaw*. Memorize those first. Write sentences describing people.

A'k'inushanaash láxs ayat ayíksha.	I saw one woman sitting down.
Ak'inushanaash napu ayatin pa'ayíksha.	I saw two women sitting down.
Ak'inushanaash mítaw ayatma pa'ayíksha.	I saw three women sitting down.

(continue writing to five)

Pay attention to ending describing women, more than one woman. *ayatin*, *ayatma*. Yakima Sahaptin people, and most Sahaptin Plateau speakers have the dual term to describe nouns. This pertains to only *humans*. You can't say *aykáwasin*, 2 chairs.

One person	<u>Singular</u>	Two people	<u>Dual</u>	More than	<u>Plural</u>
man	íwinsh		awinshin		awinshma
woman	ayat		ayatin		ayatma
boy	aswan		amiisin		amiisma
girl	pt'iniks		pt'iliyin		pt'ilima
baby	miyalas		miyalasin		miyalasma
child	miyanash		miyanashin		miyanashma

Practice writing twenty sentences using the first five numbers for people, using the singular, dual, and plural nouns.