Summary of Facebook postings by Berkeley Karuk group, December 1-10, 2015

In December, we’ll go through all the different prefixes that you use at the beginning of a verb to express the subject of the sentence. These can be different depending if it's a positive statement or question, a negative statement or a question, or a command.

**December 1**

Mrs. Bennett upiip:

ôok tá ni’áhoo. • I have come.

ôok = here
tá = recently completed or in a state
ni- = I (subject of a positive statement or question)
'áhoo = go, walk

**December 2**

Vina upiip:

tá navíshtar. • I like it (an item or type of food).

tá = in a state or recently completed
na- = I (subject with certain verbs)
vishtar = like (food)

Comments

With some verbs that express states, like víshtar "to like (food)", the prefix used for the subject "I" is na-, not ni-.

**December 3**

Vina upiip:

pûuhara, punamáahtihara papúsihich. • No, I do not see the cat.

pûuhara = no
pu- = not
na- = I (subject in a negative sentence)
máah = see
-tih = onoing
-ara = not
pa- = the
púsíhich = cat

Comments

With negative verbs (pu- + -ara = "not"), the prefix used for the subject "I" is na-, not ni-.

Also notice that when you negate a verb, the "durative" suffix -tih is often used: tá nimah "I see it" (with tá) vs. punamáahtihara "I do not see it" (with -tih).
**December 4**
Nettie Ruben upiip:

*chími kanipvâaram.* • Let me go back home (or: I've gotta go back home now).

*chími* = soon (often used in commands and exhortations)
*kan- = 1* (subject form used in commands)
*ipvâaram = go back*
*-i = command (imperative ending)*

**Comments**

We might not think of "commands" to oneself, but in Karuk you can use imperative verbs with first-person ("I" or "we") subjects, to express an urgent desire or immediate plan. With imperative verbs, the prefix used for the subject "I" is *kan-*, not *ni-* or *na-*.

**December 5**

Charlie upiip:

*fâat ikyâatih?* • What are you doing?

*fâat = what?*
*i- = you* (one person; subject of a positive statement or question)
*kyâa (= kyav) = make*
*-tih = ongoing ("durative")*

**December 6**

Vina upiip:

*puptaxâtihtihara pem’ifunih.* • You didn’t comb your hair.

*pu- = not*
*(i)ptaxâtih = comb (hair)*
*-tih = ongoing*
*-ara = not*
*pa- = =the*
*mi- = your*
*’ifunih = hair*

**Comments**

(1) With negative verbs (*pu- + -ara = "not"*), no prefix is used for the subject "you" (singular), so it’s just *pu-* plus the verb.

(2) Just like we saw a few days ago, when you negate a verb, the "durative" suffix *-tih* is often used.

(3) The verb is *iptáxatih* "to comb (hair)", and in this sentence the last vowel is lengthened (*i → ii*) because that often happens when *-tih* is added, and the first vowel (i) is dropped with the prefix *pu-*. 
December 7
Vina upiip:
*iim chími chúuphi!* • Talk!

*iim* = you  
*chími* = soon (often used in commands and exhortations)  
*chúuphi* = talk  
*-i* = command ("imperative")

Comments
With imperative verbs and a "you" singular subject, you don't use any subject prefix — so, it's just *chúuphi*!

December 8
Lucille upiip:
*ipít ukyútunihat.* • It snowed yesterday.

*ipít* = yesterday  
*u-* = it  
*(i)kyútunih* = to snow  
*-at* = in the past

Comments
The prefix *u-* is used in a statement or question when the subject is "it", "he", or "she".

December 9
Nettie Ruben upiip:
*vúra tá pupikróokara pamupákurih.* • He didn't remember his song.

*vúra* = intensive  
*tá* = recently completed or in a state  
*pu-* = not  
*pikróok* = remember  
*-ara* = not  
*pa-* = the  
*mu-* = his (or her or its)  
*pákurih* = song

Comments
With negative verbs (*pu-* + *-ara* = "not"), no prefix is used for the subject "he, she, it", so it's just *pu-* plus the verb.
December 10

Nettie Ruben upiip:

koovúra yúruk kámvuunupahitihi! • Let everything flow downriver!

koovúra = all, everything
yúruk = downriver
kám- = it (or he or she, subject form used in commands)
vuunup = flow out
-ahi = "essive" (an action is being done)
-tih = ongoing

Comments

With commands and wishes, the prefix used for the subject "he, she, or it" is kam-, not u-.