

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 *vishtar* "to like (food)", the prefix used for the subject "I" is *na-*, not *ni-*.

December 3

Vina upiip:

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

pûuhara = no

pu- = not

na- = I (subject in a negative sentence)

máah = see

-tih = ongoing

-ara = not

pa- = the

púsihich = 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. *punamáahatihara* "I do not see it" (with *-tih*).

December 4

Nettie Ruben upiip:

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

chími = soon (often used in commands and exhortations)

kan- = I (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:

puptaxátiihtihara pami'ifunih. • You didn't comb your hair.

pu- = not

(i)ptaxátiih = 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)

chúuph(i) = 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 pupikrôokara pamupákurih. • He didn't remember his song.

vúra = intensive

tá = recently completed or in a state

pu- = not

pikrôok = 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 kámvuunupahitih! • 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-*.