

Summary of Facebook postings by Berkeley Karuk group, December 11-19, 2015

(December 2015: 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 11

Sonny upiip:

tá nuthítiv. • We heard it.

tá = recently completed or in a state

nu- = we

thítiv = hear

Comments

The prefix *nu-* is used in a statement or question when the subject is "we".

December 12

Nettie Ruben upiip:

káru pu'íshaha kín'iishtihara. • And we didn't drink water.

káru = also, and

pu- = not

'íshaha = water

kín- = we (subject in a negative sentence)

'iish = to drink

-tih = ongoing

-ara = not

Comments

Three cool things here! (1) With negative verbs (*pu-* + *-ara* = "not"), for the subject "we" you can use the prefix *kin-* instead of *nu-*.

(2) As we've seen in several examples, when you negate a verb, the "durative" suffix *-tih* is often used.

(3) Usually *pu-* goes at the beginning of the verb, but sometimes it can go earlier in the sentence, like before the noun *íshaha* "water" here.

December 13

Charlie upiip:

chími núkviit-hi! • Let's go to sleep!

chími = soon (often used in commands and exhortations)

nú- = we (subject form used in commands)

(i)kviit-h(a) = to sleep

-i = command ("imperative")

Comments

With commands and wishes, the prefix used for the subject "we" is *nu-* (just as in statements).

December 14

Vina upiip:

iimkun papufich'iish kumnísheesh? • Are you (plural) going to cook the deer meat?

iimkun = you (plural)

pa- = the

pufich'iish = deermeat (púufich "deer" + íish "body, flesh, meat")

ku- = you (plural subject)

(i)mnísh = cook

-eesh = in the future

Comments

The prefix *ku-* is used in a statement or question when the subject is "you" (plural = "you all" or "you guys").

December 15

pu'ikvíit-hap • "you (plural) don't fall asleep"

pu- = not

'ikvíit-h(a) = to sleep

-ap = you (plural, in a negative sentence)

[adapted from William Bright's Karuk grammar]

Comments

With negative verbs (*pu-* "not"), for the subject "you" plural ("you all" or "you guys") the suffix *-ap* is used instead of a prefix!

December 16

Vina upiip:

kiipyukúkuhi pamiyukúkuh, Andrew káru Line! • Andrew and Line, put on your shoes!

kii- = you (plural subject form used in commands)

(i)pyukúkuh(a) = put on shoes

-i = command ("imperative")

pa- = the

mi- = your

yukúkuh = shoe(s)

káru = and, also

Comments

With commands (imperative verbs), for the subject "you" plural ("you all" or "you guys"), the prefix form *kii-* is used if the verb begins with a vowel (like *ipyukúkuha*).

In this sentence, with the noun *yukúkuh* "shoe(s)", Vina uses the possessive prefix *mi-*. She could also have said *mikunyukúkuh* with the prefix *mikun-* (which just refers to "you" plural).

December 17

Nettie Ruben upiip:

kári xás ta'ítam, "chími kiikpíkaan kachakáach." • And then (they said), "Go get Bluejay."

kári, xás, ta'ítam = then, and

chími = soon (often used in commands and exhortations)

kiik- = you (plural subject form used in commands)

píkaan = to go get (a person)

kachakáach = bluejay

Comments

With commands (imperative verbs), for the subject "you" plural ("you all" or "you guys"), the prefix form *kiik-* is used if the verb begins with a consonant (like *píkaan*).

December 18

Vina upiip:

kun'íchunvunaatih káan. • They are hiding there.

kun- = they

'íchunvu = hide oneself

-naa = plural

-tih = ongoing

káan = there

Comments

The prefix *kun-* is used in a statement or question when the subject is "they".

December 19

Julia Starritt upiip:

káru pu'aamtíhap káru pishpíshih. • And they also didn't eat honey.

káru = also

pu- = not

'aam = eat

-tíh = ongoing

-ap (see the Comment below!)

pishpíshih = honey

Comments

With negative verbs (*pu-* "not"), for the subject "they", the suffix *-ap* is used instead of a prefix!

And as we've seen in many examples, when you negate a verb, the "durative" suffix *-tih* is often used. And the verb "eat" is *aam* (instead of *av*) because it's followed by *-tih* (which makes the *aa* long and changes the *v* to *m*).

The word *pishpíshih* is also awesome: it can mean "bee", or "honey", or "honeycomb", or "car radiator" — which looks like a honeycomb!