

Summary of Facebook postings by Berkeley Karuk group, December 20-24, 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 20

Vina upiip:

uhyanaváaraar mûuk nuchúupheesh. • I'm going to call you on the telephone.

uhyanaváaraar = telephone

mûuk = with (by means of)

nu- = I (subject) + you (object)

chúuph(a) = talk

-eesh = in the future

Comments

The prefix *nu-* is used for a subject "I" (or "we") and an object "you" (singular). Another example: *tá numah* "I see you".

December 21

Vina upiip:

hárivari nachuphûunisheesh? • When are you going to call me?

hárivari = when?

na- = you (subject) + me (object)

chuphûunish = to talk to (someone)

-eesh = in the future

Comments

The prefix *na-* is used for a subject "you" (singular, one person) or "he, she, it" and an object "me". Another example: *tá námah* "he sees me".

December 22

Julia Starritt upiip:

xáyfaat kíikmahap. • Don't let them see you.

xáyfaat = don't! (in a negative command)

kíik- = they (subject) + you plural (object)

mah = see

-ap = suffix added in some subject-object combinations

Comments

To express that "you" plural is the object of the verb, the prefix *kíik-* (or *kii-*) is used, plus the suffix *-ap*.

December 23

Mamie Offield upiip:

púya, kanapikshúpihi pamikunpákurih! • Hey, teach me your song again!

púya = exclamation (hey!, so!, my!)

kana- = you (plural subject) + me (object)

p- = again

ikshúpih = teach

-i = command ("imperative")

pa- = the

mikun- = your (plural)

pákurih = song

Comments

The prefix *kana-* is used if the object is "me" and the subject is plural "you" or "they".
Another example: *xúrish kana'ákihi* "give me acorns!"

December 24

Johnnie Gorham upiip:

yáv nukyâavish. • I will treat you (singular) well.

yáv = good

nu- = I (subject) + you (singular object)

(i)kyâa = to make

-vish = in the future

Comments

In October 1901, Karuk speaker Johnnie Gorham worked with the anthropologist A. L. Kroeber, who wrote down a short Karuk story about Coyote, and many words and sentences.

In the story, Coyote says this (*yáv nukyâavish* "I will treat you well") to persuade Grizzly Bear to help him out of a hollow tree.

Later: *yáv kiikyâavish* "I will treat you (plural) well" (said by Coyote to a couple of women he meets).