

Education Center Staff Nisenan Class: Basic Commands
Review sheet for Monday, September 25, 2023

In today's class we learned how to give some commands to groups of people or individuals:

1. Basic commands like 'Stop!' and 'Stand up!'
2. Commands involving objects, like 'Take the _____' and 'Show me the _____.'

How to give commands to 2 or more people

Some of you have played *Uk'oywá!* with Language Department staff. The name of this game is a command to 2 or more people meaning '(You all) Go!'. Here are some other useful commands directed at 2 or more people:

<i>Iskitwá!</i>	'(You all) Sit down!'
<i>Dəkəwá!</i>	'(You all) Stand up!'
<i>Hatiwá!</i>	'(You all) Stop!'
<i>Meewá miyé!</i>	'(You all) Take it!'

How to give commands to a single person

Here are the same commands as above, but directed at a single person:

<i>Iskít!</i>	'Sit down!'
<i>Dəkáp!</i>	'Stand up!'
<i>Hatíp!</i>	'Stop!'
<i>Meep miyé!</i>	'Take it!'

We can see that commands to multiple people end with *-wa*. To form a command directed at just one person, remove the *-wa* suffix. For some verbs you then add *-p* (as in *Hatíp!* 'Stop!') while for other verbs you add nothing (as in *Iskít* 'Sit down!'). How do you know when to add *-p*?

Verb ends in a vowel	→	add <i>-p</i>
Verb ends in a consonant	→	add nothing

Esak'ábe mi? Do you know? Nisenan words never end in a sequence of two consonants.

How to give commands involving objects

What if you want to tell people to take a specific object? Here are a few useful objects:

<i>Mom</i>	‘Water’
<i>Papél</i>	‘Paper’
<i>Boonóyu</i>	‘Pencil/Pen’
<i>Sik’ályu</i>	‘Scissors’

Here’s how to tell an individual personal to take each of these objects.

<i>Meep <u>momí</u>.</i>	‘Take <u>mom.</u> ’ (water)
<i>Meep <u>papélí</u>.</i>	‘Take <u>papél.</u> ’ (paper)
<i>Meep <u>boonóyu</u>.</i>	‘Take <u>boonóyu.</u> ’ (pencil/pen)
<i>Meep <u>sik’ályu</u>.</i>	‘Take <u>sik’ályu.</u> ’ (scissors)

Notice that some of these nouns get *-i* added at the end. In Nisenan sentences, the object of the verb (i.e. the thing that something is being done to) is sometimes indicated with the suffix *-i*. How do you know when to add *-i*?

Noun ends in a vowel	→	add nothing
Noun ends in a consonant*	→	add <i>-i</i>

*There is one exception, which we’ll talk about in the future.

Please reach out to the Language Department at Language@ssband.org with any questions.