Education Center Staff Nisenan Class: Commands Continued
Review sheet for Monday, October 2, 2023

In today's class we learned more basic commands:

1. How to tell someone to wash their hands.
2. How to tell someone to give or show things to various people.

Wash your hands!

Here's how to tell one person to wash their hands:

> *Yuc'úup min maa!* = *Min maa yuc'úup!*   'Wash your *maa*!' (hands)

Here's how to tell a group of people to wash their hands:

> *Yuc'uuwá mimée maa!* = *Mimée maa yuc'uuwá!*   'Wash your *maa*!' (hands)

Esak'ábe mi? Do you know? Nisenan does not pluralize nouns the same way English does. There is a special way of pluralizing human nouns (like relative, father, student, etc.), but non-human nouns (like hand, dog, tree, etc.) are the same regardless of whether you are talking about one or more than one. So, for example, *maa* could refer to one hand or multiple hands.

How to tell an individual to 'give me' and 'show me'

The commands below are addressed to just one person. If you want to tell a group of people to do these things, remove *-p* from the verb if necessary and add *-wa* (See review sheet for Sep 25th).

> **Mey** *nik miɏé.* = *Miɏé* **mey** *nik.*   '**Give** me *miɏé*.' (it)
>
> **Mey** *nik momí.* = *Momí* **mey** *nik.*   '**Give** me *mom*.' (water)
>
> **Mey** *nik boonóyu.* = *Boonóyu* **mey** *nik.*   '**Give** me *boonóyu*.' (pencil/pen)

> **Etatíp** *nik miɏé.* = *Miɏé* **etatíp** *nik.*   '**Show** me *miɏé*.' (it)
>
> **Etatíp** *nik papelí.* = *Papelí* **etatíp** *nik.*   '**Show** me *papél*.' (paper)
>
> **Etatíp** *nik sɨk'ə́lyu.* = *Sɨk'ə́lyu* **etatíp** *nik.*   '**Show** me *sɨk'ə́lyu*.' (scissors)

Esak'ábe mi? Do you remember? In Nisenan sentences, direct and indirect objects of the verb are marked with *-i* when they end in a consonant (with one exception we'll cover in the future). This applies to regular nouns like *mom* 'water', but not to pronouns like *nik* 'me', which are already in their special 'object' form. There is a list of object pronouns at the end of this review sheet.

Using other pronouns

Above, the object pronoun *nik* means 'me'. To tell someone to give or show something to others, you just swap out the object pronoun.

  mɨhé   'him/her (human)'   *mɨyé*   'it (non-human)'

  Mey *mɨhé* <u>sɨk'ɘ́lyu</u>. = <u>Sɨk'ɘ́lyu</u> **mey** *mɨhé*.   'Give him/her <u>sɨk'ɘ́lyu</u>.' (scissors)

  Etatíp *mɨhé* <u>papelí</u>. = <u>Papelí</u> **etatíp** *mɨhé*.   'Show him/her <u>papél</u>.' (paper)

  Mey *mɨyé* <u>momí</u>. = <u>Momí</u> **mey** *mɨyé*.   'Give it <u>mom</u>.' (water)

  Etatíp *mɨyé* <u>boonóyu</u>. = <u>Boonóyu</u> **etatíp** *mɨyé*.   'Show it <u>boonóyu</u>.' (pencil/pen)

Esak'ábe mi? Do you remember? We can use multiple pronouns in the same sentence; remember the command *Mey nik mɨyé* 'Give me it / Give it to me'?

Reference list of object pronouns

nik	'Me'
nisak'á	'Us (two people)'
nisek'é	'Us (three or more people)'
min	'You (one person)'
mimak'á = mik'á	'You (two people)'
mimek'é = mik'é	'You (three or more people)'
mɨhé	'He/She'
mɨsá	'They (two people)'
mɨsé	'They (three or more people)'
mɨyé	'It, them (non-human)'

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