

Education Center Staff Nisenan Class: Reviewing Commands
Review sheet for Monday, November 6, 2023

We've been learning how to command people to do (and not to do) various things. In today's class we are going to consolidate what we learned by practicing.

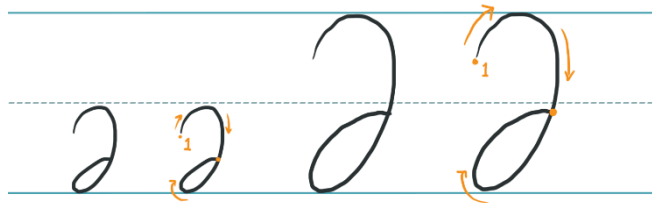
So far, we've mostly practiced listening and speaking. Today let's focus more on writing. This will reinforce the language we've learned (and be fun!).

Step 1

You have a list of Nisenan phrases that we've learned. We'll all take a few minutes to write them down on another sheet of paper. Don't write down what these phrases mean in English yet: We will translate them later, so leave some space next to each phrase.

Try to pay attention to spelling and special characters, like the stress marks (acute accents). Here are some tips for writing a few of the special characters in the official SSBMI Nisenan alphabet:

- Barred-i i ɪ Write it like a normal 'i' and cross it like a 't'
- Schwa ə ɘ Start on the outside, not the inside!



Step 2

Each person will read their hand-written list of phrases out loud, and we'll figure out what each phrase means together. We'll also write down each other's phrases on our own lists.

Step 3

Some of our commands are addressed to one person and some to a group of people. Let's change the number of people each command is addressed to and write them down again. For example, let's say we have this phrase:

Dəkəwá. 'All of you, stand up.' (command to 2+ people)

We will change it to the phrase below:

Dəkép. 'Stand up.' (command to 1 person)

Heads up: Some of our commands have the negation suffix *-men*. Remember that the command suffixes (both singular *-p* and plural *-wa*) go on after the negation suffix. Here's a diagram for reference:

[[verb]negation]command]

Step 4 - Opposite day

Some of our commands use the negation suffix *-men* and some don't. Let's change all our commands to mean the opposite. For example, let's say we have this phrase:

Boonóyu mey nik. 'Give me boonóyu.' (pencil) (1 person)

We will change it to the phrase below:

Boonóyu meymén nik. 'Don't give me boonóyu.' (pencil) (1 person)

Let's say we have this phrase:

Dəkámén. 'Don't stand up.' (1 person)

We will change it to the phrase below:

Dəkép. 'Stand up.' (1 person)

Heads-up: Once we remove the negation suffix *-men*, we are left with the verb *dəkə*. That verb ends in a vowel, so we must add the singular command suffix *-p*. Here's a diagram for reference:

Verb ends in a vowel → add *-p*

Verb ends in a consonant → add nothing

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

This review sheet, recordings of the language from this lesson, and solutions to the practice exercises above are available at <https://bit.ly/ssbmieducationcenter>.