

Lexical categories

Content words can be distinguished in terms of their **lexical category**.

Nouns: child, Michael, school, water, question, peace, understanding

Verbs: give, walk, sneeze, want, understand

Adjectives: tall, kind, red, excited

Determiners: the, that, those

Prepositions: in, of, at, with

Practice: Label the bolded words in the following Hul'q'umi'num' sentences in terms of their lexical category (N, V, ADJ, DET, P).

1. 'i' wulh **q'el'** thu **s'eluhw** sis nem' 'uw' **lemutus**.

Finally the old lady believed him and went to see.

2. 'i' 'i-i-i ts'u **thi** tthu shelhuq' **shun'tsus**.

And his big catch was lying down—

3. thi-i-i **kwewe'uts** ni' **q'uynuhwus** shun'tsus.

a big elk was the catch that he killed

4. hwuqux **smuyuth** ni' **kwunnuxwus** tun'ni' 'u tthu ni' shun'tsus **thu** 'imuths, t'i't'ut'um'.

They had lots of meat from the catch of her grandson, Little Wren.

Verb subcategorization (valence)

Intransitive verbs are associated with only one noun phrase (a subject).

Mary (SUBJECT) sang.

The child (SUBJECT) fell.

Transitive verbs are associated with more than one NP.

My brother (SUBJECT) swept the floor (OBJECT).

The dog (SUBJECT) chased the squirrel (OBJECT).

Practice: Is the verb intransitive or transitive.

1. She wrote a story.
2. He laughed.
3. My mother cooked the potatoes.
4. Mike coughed.
5. John saw a scary movie.

Some differences between Hul'q'umi'num' and English

One of the first things you need to think about when learning Hul'q'umi'num' grammar is that it often is not at all like English grammar.

Word Order

Take for example, basic order in a sentence. In English the order goes:

- (1) The man saw the woman.
subject verb object

But in Hul'q'umi'num', it often goes

- (2) **verb** **subject** **object**
ni' lumnuhwus tthu swuy'qe' thu slheni'.
saw the man the woman.

Hul'q'umi'num' Third Person Agreement

Identify the subjects and objects.

Which verbs are intransitive and which are transitive?

When do you use the suffix **-us**?

- (1) ni' tsun 'imush. I walked
- (2) ni' 'u ch 'imush? Did you walk?
- (3) ni' 'imush kwthu swiw'lus. The boy walked.
- (4) ni' 'u ch 'imush? Did you walk?
- (5) ni' tsun ts'ewut kwthu swiw'lus. I helped the boy.
- (6) ni' ts'ewutus kwthu swiw'lus lhu slheni'. The boy helped the woman.
- (7) ni' ts'ewutham'shus kwthu swiw'lus. The boy helped me.'