

Determiners in noun phrases

Table 1: proximal determiners

	MASCULINE	FEMININE
ARTICLE	tthu, tu	thu
DEMONSTRATIVE	they', tey'	they'
LOCATIONAL words	'e'ut / na'ut	'e'uth / na'uth

Table 2: in view and out of sight determiners

	MASCULINE	FEMININE
ARTICLE	tthu, tu	thu
ARTICLE OUT OF SIGHT	kwthu, kwu	lhu

Plain articles: *tthu* and *kwthu*.

- (1) *tthu* / *tu* is used for a person who is in view.

ni' 'umut tthu swuy'qe'.	The man (visible) sat down.
ni' lhxhilush tthu swiw'lus.	The boy (visible) stood.
ni' hwiyuneeem' tu mustimuhw.	The people listened.

- (2) *kwthu* is used for a person who is not in view.

ni' t'ilum kwthu swuy'qe'.	The man (out of sight) sang.
ni' nem' 'imush kwthu swiw'lus.	The boy (out of sight) went for a walk.
ni' xheem kwthu qeq.	The baby boy cried.

Feminine articles: *thu* and *lhu*.

A different set of articles is used to refer to a female person.

- (3) The article *thu* is used for a female person when she is in view.

ni' t'ilum thu slheni'.	The woman (visible) sang.
ni' yaays thu q'em'i'.	The girl (visible) worked.
ni' xheem thu qeq.	The baby girl (visible) cried.

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- (4) The article *lhu* is used for a female person when she is not in view.

ni' qwal lhu slheni'.	The woman (out of sight) spoke.
ni' huye' lhu stl'itl'qulh.	The girl child (out of sight) left.
ni' 'umut lhu s'eluhw.	The elder woman (out of sight) sat down.

Proper names.

In Hul'q'umin'um', articles are also used with proper nouns. Use *tthu* and *kwthu* with male names and *thu* and *lhu* with female names.

tu chan	John (visible)
kwthu chan	John (out of sight)
thu meli	Mary (visible)
lhu meli	Mary (out of sight)

Plain determiners with plurals.

Plural nouns are preceded by the plain articles *tthu* and *kwthu*, even when referring to females.

- (5) The article is the same for singular and plural nouns when the noun refers to a male.

tu swuy'qe'	tu suw'uy'qe'
the man (visible)	the men (visible)
kwthu swuy'qe'	kwthu suw'uy'qe'
the man (out of sight)	the men (out of sight)

- (6) When the noun refers to a female, the articles will be different. Singular nouns referring to females have the feminine articles, but plural nouns referring to females have the plain articles.

thu slheni'	tu slhun'lheni'
the woman (visible)	the women (visible)
lhu slheni'	kwthu slhun'lheni'
the woman (out of sight)	the women (out of sight)