

Unit Two Subject Pronouns

2.1 Dialogue.

A.	ni' 'u ch 'imush?	"Did you walk?"
B.	'uwu, ni' tsun xwchenum.	"No, I ran."
A.	'i 'u ch lhtsiws? 'ilhe 'umut.	"Are you tired?" "Let's sit down."
B.	hay ch q'a'. ni' 'u ch nem' yaays?	"Thank you." "Did you go to work?"
A.	'uwu, ni' tsun 'uw' lhumts'el's 'ul'.	"No, I just went picking."

2.2 tsun "I".

The first person singular subject pronoun is *tsun*, which is also pronounced *tsu*. Put *tsun* after the first auxiliary or verb of the sentence.

nem' tsun 'imush.	"I'm going to walk."
m'i tsun yaays.	"I'm coming to work."
'umut tsun tse'.	"I will sit down."

2.3 Two auxiliaries: 'i and ni'.

In the following examples, *tsun* follows the auxiliaries 'i and *ni'*. 'i signals that the event happens in present space or present time. *ni'* signals that the event was removed in space or time.

'i tsun lhtsiws.	"I am tired." (now)
ni' tsun 'imush.	"I walked." (action completed)
ni' tsun nem' 'umut.	"I went to sit down." (over there)

2.4 Pattern practice.

I walked.	ni' tsun 'imush.
sang	
stopped	
listened	
sat	
smiled	
went picking	
spoke in a First Nations Language	

2.5 Translation.

1.	I worked.	ni' tsun yaays.
2.	I was quiet.	
3.	I called out.	
4.	I danced.	
5.	I talked.	
6.	I ran.	
7.	I went to sit down.	
8.	I went to play.	

2.6 ch “you”.

The second person singular subject pronoun is *ch*. This appears after the first auxiliary or verb.

ni' ch 'imush.	“You walked.”
ni' ch 'unuhw.	“You stopped.”
ni' ch nem' q'ulum'.	“You went camping.”
'i ch lhtsiws.	“You are tired.”

2.7 'u question particle.

To form a question, place the interrogative particle *'u* immediately after the first auxiliary or verb. Note that *'u* precedes the pronoun.

'i 'u ch lhtsiws?	“Are you tired?”
ni' 'u ch 'imush?	“Did you walk?”
ni' 'u ch 'ulhtun?	“Did you eat?”
nem' 'u ch 'umut?	“Are you going to sit down?”
ni' 'u ch nem' 'umut?	“Did you go sit down?”
qwal 'u ch tse'?	“Will you talk?”

2.8 Pronunciation tip.

Contract the auxiliary *'i* and the question particle *'u* to *'ii* and *ni'* and *'u* to *nii*.

2.9



Translation.

1.	Did you stand up?	ni' 'u ch lhxilush?
2.	Did you call out?	
3.	Did you smile?	
4.	Did you talk?	
5.	Did you go camping?	
6.	Did you run?	
7.	Did you dance?	
8.	Did you go work?	
9.	Did you listen?	
10.	Did you sing?	

2.10

 **Answer.**

Q: ni' 'u ch 'imush? “Did you walk?”	A: ni' tsun 'imush. “I walked.”
ni' 'u ch qwal? “Did you speak?”	
ni' 'u ch hwiyeem' ? “Did you listen?”	
ni' 'u ch yaays? “Did you work?”	
ni' 'u ch nem' 'imush? “Did you walk?”	
ni' 'u ch t'illum? “Did you sing?”	
ni' 'u ch 'umut? “Did you sit down?”	

2.11

 **Ask a question.**

	Ask:
ni' tsun 'imush.	ni' 'u ch 'imush?
ni' tsun qw'uyulush.	
ni' tsun 'unuhw.	
ni' tsun hwulmuhwqun.	
ni' tsun nem'.	
ni' tsun hwyunumus.	
ni' tsun nem' lhumts'el's.	

2.12 **tst “we”.**

Place the first person plural subject pronoun *tst* after the first auxiliary or verb.

'i tst lhtsiws.	“We are tired.”
ni' tst 'imush.	“We walked.”
ni' tst lhxilush.	“We stood up.”
ni' tst huye'.	“We left.”
ni' tst nem' 'umut.	“We went to sit down.”
nem' tst tse'.	“We will go.”

2.13 **Pattern practice.**

We walked.	ni' tst 'imush.
sing	
stop	
listen	
smile	
go picking	
speak in a First Nations language	

2.14

**Translation.**

1.	We worked.	ni' tst yaays
2.	We were quiet.	
3.	We called out.	
4.	We danced.	
5.	We talked.	
6.	We ran.	
7.	We went to sit down.	
8.	We went to play.	

2.15 tseep “you (pl)”.

Use the second person plural subject pronoun *tseep* when addressing more than one person.

2.15a Place *tseep* after the first auxiliary or verb of the sentence.

ni' tseep 'imush.	“You (pl) walked.”
ni' tseep nem'.	“You (pl) went.”
ni' tseep qwal.	“You (pl) talked.”

2.15b The interrogative particle 'u precedes *tseep*.

ni' 'u tseep t'ilum?	“Did you (pl) sing?”
ni' 'u tseep qw'uyulush?	“Did you (pl) dance?”
ni' 'u tseep hwulmuhwqun?	“Do you (pl) speak a First Nations language?”

2.16 Answer.

Q: ni' 'u tseep 'imush? “Did you (pl) walk?”	A: ni' tst 'imush. “We walked.”
ni' 'u tseep qwal?	
ni' 'u tseep hwiyeem'?	
ni' 'u tseep yaays?	
ni' 'u tseep nem' 'imush?	
ni' 'u tseep t'ilum?	
ni' 'u tseep 'umut?	

2.17



Ask a question.

	Ask:
ni' tst 'imush.	ni' 'u tseep 'imush?
ni' tst qw'uyulush.	
ni' tst 'unuhw.	
ni' tst hwulmuhwqun.	
ni' tst nem'.	
ni' tst hwyunumus.	
ni' tst nem' lhumts'el's.	

2.18 'uw'...'ul' qualifier.

By adding the particles 'uw' before the verb and 'ul' after the verb, you can express the meaning of “just” or “quite”.

ni' 'u ch 'uw' 'imush 'ul'?	“Did you just walk?” (as opposed to getting a ride)
ni' tsun 'uw' 'unuhw 'ul'.	“I just stopped.”
'uw' 'ayum ch' ul'!	“Just go slow!” (“Just take it easy!”)
'i 'u ch 'uw' 'uy' 'ul'?	“How are you?”/ “Are you (quite) all right?”
'i 'u tseep 'uw' 'eli' 'ul'?	“How are you (pl)?”

2.19

**Translation.**

1.	ni' tsun 'uw' hwyunumus 'ul'.	I just smiled.
2.	ni' 'u ch 'u teem 'ul'?	
3.	ni' tst 'uw' xwchenum 'ul'.	
4.	I just listened.	
5.	Did you just sit down?	
6.	We just worked.	

2.20 **“he/she/it”.**

No special marking is needed to express third person subjects of intransitive verbs. Just use the plain verb. Unlike English, Hul'q'umi'num' makes no distinction in gender when it comes to person marking. So the sentences below have subjects that can be translated as “he”, “she”, “it”, or “them”, depending on the context.

ni' 'umut.	“He/she/it sat down.”
ni' nem' yaays.	“He/she went to work.”
ni' qw'uyulush 'i' t'ilum.	“He/she danced and sang.”
ni' 'u 'umut?	“Did he/she/it sit down?”
ni' 'u nem'?	“Did he/she/it go?”
ni' 'u hwulmuhwqun?	“Does he/she speak a First Nations language?”

2.21 'eelhtun “they”.

No special marking on the verb is needed to express a third person plural subject. But the pronoun *'eelhtun* can be used after the verb to make it clear that more than one person is doing the action.

ni' 'umut 'eelhtun.	“They sat down.”
ni' nem' yaays 'eelhtun.	“They went to work.”
ni' 'u t'ilum 'eelhtun?	“Did they sing?”
ni' 'u hwulmuhwqun 'eelhtun?	“Did they speak a First Nations language?”

2.22 Translation.

1.	ni' tst nem' yaays.	We went to work.
2.	ni' 'u tseep 'uw' hwiyeem' 'ul'?	
3.	ni' tsun 'uw' hwts'e'nutsum 'ul'.	
4.	ni' 'u ch 'unuhw?	
5.	ni' 'u nem' lhumts'el's 'eelhtun?	
6.	Did you go?	
7.	He stopped and listened.	
8.	I just smiled.	
9.	Did they go sit down?	
10.	Did you (pl) just stand?	

2.23 Reading lesson.

ni' tsun nem' 'imush. ni' tsun lumnuhw kwthu mustimuhw. ni' tsun ptem', "ni' 'u ch 'uw' hwulmuhwqun?" ni' 'unuhw 'i' hwyunumus sis 'uw' thut, "ni' 'u ch 'uw' hul'q'umi'num'qun? 'ilhe hwts'e'nutsum." ni' tst 'umut sis 'uw' qwal kwthu hwulmuhw. tl'im' tsun niw' hwiyeem'.