

Unit Six The Family

6.1 Dialogue.

A.	'i 'u 'uw' 'a'mut'ul' lhun' ten?	"Is your mother home?"
B.	'uwu 'i'us 'a'mut lhunu ten.	"My mother's not at home."
A.	ni' kwu'elh 'untsu?	"Where is she then?"
B.	ni' nem' tl'shhwimelu'.	"She went to the store."
A.	'i 'u 'a'mut kwthun' men?	"Is your father at home?"
B.	'uwu. ni' nem' 'u kwthu theew't-hw.	"No, he went to the big house."
A.	'i 'u 'a'mut lhun' shuyulh?	"Is your big sister at home?"
B.	'uwu. ni' tl'mutouliye'.	"No. She went to Victoria."
A.	'i 'u ch 'uw' hay 'ul'?	"Are you alone?"
B.	'uwu, 'i' 'uw' 'a'mut lhunu si'lu.	"No, my grandmother is at home."

6.2 Vocabulary: kin terms.

ten	"mother"
men	"father"
mun'u ¹	"child"
me'mun'u	"children"
si'lu	"grandparent", "grandparent's sibling or cousin"
sul'sil'u	"grandparents", etc.
'imuth	"grandchild", "grandniece", "grand nephew", "cousin's grandchild"
'um'-imuth	"grandchildren", etc.
shuyulh	"older brother/sister/cousin"
shushuyulh	"older brothers/sisters/cousins"
sqe'uq	"younger brother/sister/cousin"

¹ *mun'u* means "child" in the sense of one's own child, that is "offspring", "son or daughter".

squle'uq	“younger brothers/sisters/cousins”
shhwum'nikw	“aunt”, “uncle”, “parent’s cousin”
shhwum'ne'lukw	“aunts”, “uncles”, etc.
stiwun	“niece”, “nephew”, “cousin’s child”
stutiwun	“nieces”, “nephews”, etc.
sts'a'muqw	“great-grandparent/child”
sts'al'um'uqw	“great-grandparents/children”
'ukwiya'qw	“great-great-grandparent/child”
'ukw-'ikwiya'qw	“great-great-grandparents/children”
th'up'i'a'qw	“great-great-great-grandparent/child”
th'uth'ip'i'a'qw	“great-great-great-grandparents/children”
sta'lus	“spouse”

6.3 Grammar note.

You can see from the meanings given for the kin terms above that most kin terms do not distinguish gender. That is, the same words are used for ‘aunt’ and ‘uncle’, ‘son’ and ‘daughter’, ‘grandmother’ and ‘grandfather’, etc. For singular nouns, gender is marked on the article.

lhunu mun'u	kwthunu mun'u
“my daughter”	“my son”

Many of the kin terms are “generational”. That is, they name all of the close relatives of the same generation. So *sqe'uq* not only means younger brother or sister, but also cousins (on both sides of the family) that are younger. And *si'lu* not only means your grandparents, but also your grandparents’ brothers and sisters and cousins.

Once you get beyond the first two generations up and down (parents, grandparents, children, and grandchildren), the terms become “reciprocal”. So *sts'a'muqw* not only means great-grandparent but also great-grandchild.

6.4 Pattern practice.

Where is your mother ?	ni' 'untsu lhun' ten ?
your little sister	
your aunt	
your grandmother	
your daughter	
your granddaughter	
your older sister	
your great-grandchild	
your niece	
your wife	

6.5 Pattern practice.

Is your father home?	'i 'u 'a'mut kwthun' men ?
your uncle	
your older brother	
your son	
your husband	
your grandson	
your younger brother	
your nephew	
your grandfather	
your great-grandfather	

6.6 Substitution drill.

My mother went to town.	ni' tl'tawun lhunu ten .
my father	
my son	
my grandmother	
my granddaughter	
my daughter	
my grandson	
my grandfather	
my uncle	
my aunt	
my niece	
my nephew	
my great-grandfather	
my great-granddaughter	
my wife	
my husband	
my older brother	
my little sister	

6.7 Substitution drill.

My mother is not at home.	'uwu 'i'us 'a'mut lhunu ten.
your mother	
his mother	
our mother	
my grandmother	
her grandmother	
your (pl) grandmother	
his younger sister	
his older sister	
my niece	
our aunt	

6.8 Vocabulary: places.

hhwimelu	“store”
tawun	“town”
snuneymuhw	“Nanaimo”
snuw’nuw’us	“Nanoose”
shts’um’inus	“Chemainus”
sqwxwa’mush	“Vancouver”
mutouliye’	“Victoria”
quw’utsun’	“Cowichan”
hwmuthkwi’um	“Musqueam”
kwa’mutsun	“Quamichan”
s’amuna’	“Duncan”, “Somenoes”
lhumlhumuluts’	“Clem Clem”
xinupsum	“Greenpoint”
hwkw’al’uhwum	“Qualicum”
pun’e’luxetth’	“Kuper Island”
shts’alhulhp	“Tsartlip; West Saanich”
stth’e’uw’t-hw	“Tsawout; East Saanich”

6.9 Pattern practice.

My mother went to the store .	ni' nem' tl' shhwimelu' lhunu ten.
town	
Nanaimo	
Nanoose	
Chemainus	
Vancouver	
Victoria	
Duncan	

6.10 -ew't-hw “house”, “building”, “room”.

The lexical suffix -'ew't-hw can be compounded with other words to form a word for “house’, “building’, or “room’.

skwool'ew't-hw	“schoolhouse” (<i>skwool</i> “school”)
q'aq'i'ew't-hw	“hospital” (<i>q'aq'i'</i> “sick”)
theew't-hw	“big house” (<i>thi</i> “big”)
'itutew't-hw	“hotel” (<i>'itut</i> “sleep”)
t'iw'i'ulhew't-hw	“church” (<i>t'iw'i'ulh</i> “pray”)
'um'utew't-hw	“bathroom” (<i>'um'ut</i> “sitting down”)
qewthew't-hw	“root cellar” (<i>sqewth</i> “potato”)
syaaysew't-hw	“workroom”, “toolhouse” (<i>yaays</i> “work”)

6.11 What do these words mean?

chukunew't-hw	chicken coop
telew't-hw	
q'il'ew't-hw	
'ulhtunew't-hw	
kesulnew't-hw	
qwumey'ew't-hw	
kwoukwew't-hw	
poutew't-hw	
snuhwulhew't-hw	
huw'a'lum'ew't-hw	

6.12 Pattern practice.

I went to the schoolhouse .	ni' tsun nem' 'u kwthu skwool'ew't-hw .
hospital	
big house	
church	
bank	
smoke house	
gas station	
dog house	
outhouse	

6.13 Answer and translate.

1.	ni' 'untsu lhun' ten?	“Where is your mother?”
Answer:	ni' nem' lhunu ten 'u kwthu skwool'ew'thw.	“She went to the schoolhouse.”
2.	ni' 'untsu kwthun' sqe'eq?	
Answer:		
3.	ni' 'untsu lhun' shuyulh?	
Answer:		
4.	ni' 'untsu lhun' stal'us?	
Answer:		
5.	ni' 'untsu kwthun' sts'am'uqw?	
Answer:		
6.	ni' 'untsu lhun' sil'u?	
Answer:		
7.	ni' 'untsu lhun' mun'u?	
Answer:		
8.	ni' 'untsu kwthun' sil'u?	
Answer:		
9.	ni' 'untsu kwthun' shuyulh?	
Answer:		
10.	ni' 'untsu lhun' 'imuth?	
Answer:		

6.14



Translation.

1.	ni' kwu'elh 'untsu kwthun' men?	Where is your father then?
2.	ni' tl' sqwxhwam'ush lhunu ten.	
3.	ni' nem' 'u kwthu telew'thw kwthunu shhwum'nikw.	
4.	ni' 'untsu lhun' ten 'i' kwthun' men?	
5.	'uwu 'i'us 'am'ut lhunu sil'u.	
6.	Where is your little sister?	
7.	My wife went to town.	
8.	My daughter went to the big house.	
9.	My older brother isn't home.	
10.	Is your great-grandmother at home?	

6.15 Reading lesson.

'i tsun 'uw' hay 'ul' 'a'mut. mukw' lhwet² ni' 'uw' huye'. ni' yaays kwthunu
men. 'i' hay lhunu ten ni' tl'tawun. ni' nem' 'u kwthu telew't-hw yuw'en'. sus
'uw' tl'shhwimelu 'iluquls 'u kw' s'ulhtun tst. ni' skwulookwul' kwthunu
shhwa'luqw'a' 'i tsun kwu'elh 'uw' hay 'ul'.

² *mukw' wet* in Snuneymuhw