NAHUATL GRAMMAR

OF THE TOWNSHIPS OF MECAYAPAN AND TATAHUICAPAN DE JUÁREZ, VERACRUZ

Second Edition
(Electronic Version)

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Preface to the English Translation

I undertook this translation for my own purposes, imagining that turning the Spanish into English would help me internalize the grammar of this modern version of Nahuatl better (I thought that this exercise might prove useful to my knowledge of Classical Nahuatl). Once I had made some progress with the project, it occurred to me that while most people who are deeply involved in Nahuatl studies perforce have to be conversant with Spanish, an English translation might nonetheless prove useful to students of Nahuatl who are more at home in English than Spanish (for instance, linguists). I wrote to the Instituto Lingüístico de Verano, which has graciously allowed me to make my translation available under their copyright. I thank the institute for letting me bring the fruits of my labor to the general public.

For the most part, the translation is straightforward enough. I have converted references to the pronunciation and grammatical usage of Spanish to ones appropriate for an English-speaking audience. The most noticeable change that I have introduced has to do with the orthography. The original text utilized the adapted form of the Spanish alphabet that is used to record the language locally. Spanish orthography is the obvious choice under the circumstances (it is the main literary language in the area, and Spanish orthography has traditionally been used to record Nahuatl since the sixteenth century), but there are two disadvantages from the point of view of an English-speaking audience. First, some usages of Spanish, such as **hu** for **w**, are not natural for an English speaker. Second, some aspects of the Spanish system, such as using **qu** for the velar stop when it appears before a front vowel, and **c** when the same sound appears before a back vowel, may make some sense in Spanish in terms of the Latin etymology of the language, but have no historical justification for Nahuatl and serve only to obscure the basic phonology of the language. Hence, I have uniformly replaced the Spanish orthography with a more logical system based on linguistic principles. The section on accents has also been simplified by dispensing with certain peculiarities deriving from the Spanish system. This change in orthography is meant for pedagogical purposes only, and I am saying nothing about how natives should write their own language. Once the user of this book has grasped the phonological basis of the language, he or she should have no problem reading it in Spanish orthography (which is described here). Finally, I have added a few explanatory footnotes; these appear in square brackets and conclude with my initials in order to distinguish them clearly from the notes of the original.

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Edmonton, Alberta
October 21, 2007

Preface to the Second Edition of the Spanish Version of the Nahuatl Grammar

The first edition of this Nahuatl grammar, published in 1981, was entitled *Gramática náhuatl del municipio de Mecayapan, Veracruz*. In the subsequent years, this township was divided, and the township of Tatahuicapan de Juárez was made a separate political entity. For this reason, the present, newly published edition bears the title *Gramática náhuatl (mela'tájt<u>ol</u>) de los municipios de Mecayapan y Tatahuicapan de Juárez, Veracruz*.

The first edition contained a Spanish-Nahuatl dictionary that has not been included in the present edition because a new *Diccionario náhuatl de los municipios de Mecayapan y Tatahuicapan de Juárez, Veracruz* has recently been published as a separate volume.

This newly publshed edition contains essentially the same grammatical information as the first, with the addition of a significant number of literal translations placed interlinearly between the model sentences in Nahuatl and the free translation into Spanish when the syntactic characeristics of the two languages are compared.

The complete text of this grammar, together with the dictionary, is accessible via the internet on the website of the Instituto Lingüístico de Verano:

> http://www.sil.org/mexico/nahuatl/familia-nahuatl.html

The author recongizes with gratitude the important assistance provided by the linguistic advisors Thomas Willet and David Tuggy, the assistance of Adriana Ultreras Ortiz in the editing of the Spanish, and the enthusiasm of Albert Bickford as director of the Department of Linguistics.

Acknowledgments of the Spanish Edition

Like every work, this one emerges into the light of day thanks to the interest and support of many people. Mention is made here of those who collaborated more closely on it.

The first chapters were started in 1972 with the assistence of Genaro González Cruz, a native speaker of the Nahuatl of Mecayapan. The project suffered a number of interruptions, but the interest that he always showed in seeing it finished and used as a manual of instruction were a motivation to persevere.

The disinterested and sagacious help of Gonzalo Lorenzo Revilla impelled the work to its conclusion. He reviewed the Spanish correspondences and added entries of linguistic and ethnographic interest. He also reviewed the grammatical material and made suggestions that made it possible to provide a more precise presentation of the information.

Dr. Doris Bartholomew, in her capacity as linguistic consultant, applied her experience to examining the first draft and discussing the material presented in it.

Dr. Yolanda Lastra was kind enough to read the manuscript and to give us very valuable suggestions in terms of certain items of nomenclature and to call our attention to certain deficiencies in the Spanish. Artemisa Echegoyen took care of various points relating to the editing of the book.

My wife, Marilyn Minter de Wolgemuth, set down roots with me in Mecayapan, learned to speak Nahuatl, supervised the compilation of the vocabulary, and typed innumerable pages of text, which expedited the analytical studies laid out here.

The study of this variant of Nahuatl was begun with the vocabulary archive supplied by Dr. Howard W. Law. He also provided my initial orientation in the language and customs of Mecayapan

NAHUATL GRAMMAR

OF THE TOWNSHIPS OF MECAYAPAN AND TATAHUICAPAN DE JUÁREZ, VERACRUZ

Introduction

This *Nahuatl Grammar of the Townships of Mecayapan and Tatahuicapan de Juárez, Veracruz* is meant to provide, in terms that are not overly technical, an outline of the grammar of the everyday speech of the inhabitants of Mecayapan and Tatahuicapan in Veracruz. The Nahuatl of these towns is very similar to what is spoken in the neighboring township of Pajapan, which was described by Antonio García de León (1976). Both townships are located near the Gulf coast to the east and northeast of Coatzacoalcos.

In linguistic communities in which communication has been only oral until relatively recently, such as the townships mentioned above (about 15,000 inhabitants), the rule for the use of the speech is simply the form in which it is spoken. Consequently, this manual does not in any way claim to inform the speakers of the language of the "grammar" in the popular sense of instructing them in "how to speak correctly" given that they already have full command of their speech. When rules are given, the intention is to describe the actual usage of words and to call attention to the norms, the agreements and the contrasts inherent in the spoken language. These rules can be considered prescriptive only for people foreign to the community who don't yet know the language but wish to speak it like the locals.

It is hoped that this simple work will be of interest to the population of the two townships as a popular description of their speech and that it will also provide them with a useful means of expressing in Spanish certain prominent aspects of the complexities of their language, so that they can explain them to their Spanish-speaking acquaintances, be it officials who are coming for a visit, traders, or others who seek to know something of their unique native cultural heritage.

Linguistic Relationships

The diagnostic word list of Swadesh shows that 86 percent of the words in the language of Pajapan and that of Mecayapan-Tatahuicapan are cognate, a divergence of at least five centuries.[1] The tests for intelligibility carried out by the Instituto Lingüístico de Verano

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[1] [The calculation is based on the concept known as glottochronology. According to this theory, the most basic words of a language are least subject to change, and the replacement of such words takes place at a fixed rate across all languages. The number of deviations in a list of 200 (later reduced to 100) basic lexical items in two related languages can then be used to determine the length of time since those languages split and began to develop independently. The validity of this method is widely disputed. The figures here are based on the work of Mauricio Swadesh. —CSM]

indicate that people from Mecayapan-Tatahuicapan understood 76 percent of the text from Pajapan, while for their part people from Pajapan understood 83 percent of the text from Mecayapan-Tatahuicapan (Egland, 1978).

The group of dialects known as Isthmus Nahuatl, which includes the varieties of Mecayapan-Tatahuicapan and of Pajapan, is rather different from the Classical Nahuatl of the sixteenth century. The cognates between Mecayapan-Tatahuicapan and Classical Nahuatl amount to 75 percent; those between Pajapan and Classical Nahuatl amount to 74 percent, a divergence of at least twelve centuries.

Historical Perspective

Across the long history of the geographical area situated in what is known today as the south of Veracruz no cultural unity can be detected apart from a series of cultural influences created in distinct epochs by groups that detached themselves from migratory movements that passed through the area on a journey to other places and established themselves there. This region is described as the "Olmec area," since the Olmecs are the first inhabitants of whose civilization any traces have been found to date. They created the so-called "mother culture," which could have included a system of writing and the "long count" system to date historical events. Their influence made itself felt in all the later civilizations that occupied the area.

Already in the Early Classical Period, the influence of Teotihuacán began to be felt, as is revealed to us by archaeological evidence that dates from the centuries A.D. 300 to 500. Some scholars consider that sites like Matacapan confirm the supposition that the region had been a stopping or resting place during the journey of the Nahua-Pipil migrations that were heading for the colonization of the Guatemala highlands. The Nahua-Pipil colonization in Guatemala can be recognized in places like the ruins of Kaminaljuyú. The migratory route of these Teotihacanians (known later as the Pipiles) is obscure, but it could also have crossed over the south of Veracruz and left certain groups of people in its wake. There are those who think that just like their descendants, these groups setting out from Teotihuacán spoke the Nahuat language characterized by the use of **t** in positions in which the Late Classical Nahuatl that flourished after the conquest used **tl**.

After the burning of Teotihuacán (around A.D. 650), there was another Nahuat emigration consisting of people who later came to be known as Tajinized Teotihuacanian Pipiles or Nicarao Pipiles. This migratory movement was greatly influenced by the culture of Tajín and also by the Maya cultures of the Gulf. It seems that they were more aggressive and warlike, and those who succeeded in reaching Guatemala put an end to the Classical culture previously created by their predecessors. It is also very likely that certain groups separated from this migration and united with the Nahuas already established around Cerro de las Mesas, Los Tuxtlas and the general area occupied by the groups who in the present day speak Isthmian Nahuatl. Some people associate these Nahua groups with the Classical culture of Veracruz characterized by yokes, hatchets and palms.

In the early epoch of the Postclassical period, around A.D. 900, there could have been a return migratory movement towards the north, starting out from the Nahua enclaves on the Gulf. It is obvious that the styles of pottery and other artifacts known in the south became popular in the new kingdom of Tula. Later, the real migratory movement that started out from Tula on account of dissension and wound up in Chichén Itzá, could have brought a new Nahua influence to the south of Veracruz. Therefore, it is possible to find in that region artifacts associated with the Toltec civilization that is manifested in the cultures of Tula and Cholula.

Abbreviations

dep.	dependent
indeter.	indeterminate
indef.	indefinite
lit.	literally
part.	particle
perf.	perfect
pers.	person
pl.	plural
poss.	possessive
pres.	present
pret.	preterite
refl.	reflexive
sg.	singular
subj.	subjunctive
trans.	transitory

La región náhuatl de Veracruz

1. Phonology

The original version of this grammar represented Nahuatl via the Spanish alphabet, as is the normal practice for spelling texts in Mexico. In the present translation, it has been decided to replace this system with a more straightforward system. There are a number of reasons for this decision. In the first place, the sounds of Spanish do not correspond very well with those of Nahuatl. Second, Spanish orthography itself is subject to variations that have to do with the way that the spelling of Spanish sounds is affected by the etymological spelling of the Latin words that give rise to the basic vocabulary of Spanish (for example, the sound corresponding to English **k**, a voiceless velar stop, is spelled **qu** in front of front vowels and **c** in front of back vowels, a distinction that is meaningless in terms of Nahuatl phonology and obscures the phonological system of the language). Finally, the sounds given to certain letters in Spanish orthography are potentially confusing to non-Spanish audience for which this translation is intended. For example, the letter **j** may be taken to represent the sound of English **judge** or the more-linguistically minded may be tempted to interpret it as the sound that appears at the start of the English word **yes**, but the value of the initial sound of **horse** is unlikely to seem natural to someone who does not speak Spanish (and the Spanish sound represented by the letter **j** is actually noticeably different, as the original text is at pains to point out). Accordingly, the Nahuatl phonological system is first described in terms of a fixed orthography that will then be used to spell the Nahuatl that follows (Spanish borrowings, however, will be left in their original form). Next, the peculiarities of the Spanish-based orthography will be laid out in terms of how certain spellings deviate from the normal significations of the Latin alphabet.

The aim of the orthography used here is to come up with a single, readily recognizable graph for each sound without recourse to diacriticals if feasible. That is, the use of two letters (a digraph) to represent a single sound is avoided. It is hoped that the system used is a reasonable compromise between the criteria just laid out and practical considerations.

Examples of the sounds of Nahuatl:

a	ahko	*above*
b	boboso	*lung*
č	čakalin	*shrimp*
d	dadapoti?	*warty, mangy*
e	ét^{s}al	*tender ear of corn*
g	gakti	*leather sandal*
i	ikpal	*bench (made of a piece of timber)*
h	he:	*yes*
k	kikisi	*he whistles*

kʷ	kʷetax	*leather*
l	lamachtiʔ	*soft and fluffy*
m	mo:sta	*tomorrow*
n	nehnentinemi	*he goes strolling*
ñ	ñe:ñe:ʔpa	*he cries like a baby*
o	okoyoh	*pine grove*
p	popo:ka	*it emits smoke*
r	xo:rpa	*he sucks noisily*
s	siwa:tkeh	*women*
t	tahta:gaʔ	*men*
tˢ	tˢi:kaʔ	*ant*
w	wo:pa	*it roars*
x	xo:čitˢitˢi:n	*little flowers*
y	yegin	*a while ago (today)*

The letters **f**, **k**, **ll**, **v**, **z** are found in words of Castilian origin that have been adopted as part of spoken Nahuatl. Examples:

fogo:n[1]	*stove*	kilómetro	*kilometer*
llanta	*tire*	vaca	*cow*
zapato	*shoe*		

1.1 Vowels

The Nahuatl of Mecayapan and Tatahuicapan has four vowels, and these form the nucleus of the syllable: **a, e, i, o**. The **o** includes the elements of both the **o** and the **u** of standard American English and pronunciations intermediate between these two, all represented only by **o**.

1.1.1 Long and Short Vowels

An important factor when the vowels are pronounced is the length of the pronunciation. Each vowel appears in one of two manners: **long** and **short**. The following examples containing long and short vowels demonstrate the difference in meaning or tense that is established when one pronunciation or the other is used. Long vowels are indicated through the addition of a colon.

a — a:		**e — e:**	
kipata	*he changes it*	xeliwi	*it diminishes*
kipa:ta	*he softens it*	xe:liwi	*it is distributed*
kitankeh	*they ended it*	kitekilih	*he cut it for him*
kita:nkeh	*they won it*	kite:kilih	*he put him to bed*

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[1] In Nahuatl, the accent in this word falls on the first syllable.

ista?	*salt*	tetah	*it's rocky*
ista:?	*white*	te:tah	*the father*

i — **i:**		**o** — **o:**	
čiči:?	*bitter*	xoko?	*plum*
či:či?	*he nursed*	xoko:?	*sour*

nikakiti	*I'm going to hear him*	kitokakeh	*they followed him*
nikaki:ti	*I'm going to put it in*	kito:kakeh	*they buried/planted it*

kipitˢah	*he thinned it*	tanamakatoya	*he was selling*
kipi:tˢah	*they blow on it*	tanamakato:ya	*he was going to sell*

The length of the long vowel is equal to that of two short vowels, and for this reason its pronunciation influences the rhythm at the end of what is being said.

The contrast in length of the long vowel is neutralized when it is placed in front of another vowel. That is, when two vowels follow in a row, the first is always short even if it is long in other uses. Examples:

a-ihti *in the area of the stream*
   [**a-** is a variant of **a:-**, the dependent root of **a:?tli** *water, gully*; **-ihti?** *in the area of*]

a:sentapal *on that side of the stream*
   [**a-** is the dependent root of **a:?ti** *water, gully*, **-sentapal** *that side of*]

ne-itakeh *they saw me*
   [**ne-** is a variant of **ne:-** *me*; **-itakeh** *they saw*]

ne:makakeh *they gave me*
   [**ne:-** *me*; **-makakeh** *they gave*]

1.1.2 Long Vowels and Double Vowels
In the orthographic system used in this study,[1] long vowels are written with a following colon. In this way, double vowels are distinguished. Double vowels, that is, two identical

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[1] Despite there being homonyms that differ solely in the length of the vowel, it is not essential to represent this distinction in writing. The reader who is a native speaker of the language recognizes the correct pronunciation in the majority of the cases in which there can be confusion, just as the reader of Spanish can grasp the meaning of a text written in all capitals that lacks accents, because the context generally makes the homonyms clear. For this reason, it will be noted that in materials drawn up by native speakers not all the long vowels are marked.

vowels, one following after the other, are separated in pronunciation through a small cutting off of the voice, two vowels being formed in this way. A long vowel, on the other hand, is a single syllable, though it counts rhythmically as two beats.

Long vowels		**Double vowels**	
	a:		**aa**
mata:ki	*may it bear fruit*	mataaki	*may he put things away*
	e:		**ee**
ne:san	*around there*	neehla:n	*he remembered me*
	o:		**oo**
mo:hli	*mole*	moohwi	*your path*

The separation between two vowels can also be indicated through the use of a dash:

mata-aki   ne-ehla:n   mo-ohwi

1.2 Consonants

The following chart lays out the fifteen consonants (eighteen with voiced stops) of the Nahuatl of Mecayapan-Tatahuicapan as expressed in the symbols that are used in this translation.

The Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Labeo-Velar	Velar	Glottal
Stop[1]	**p/b**	**t/d**			**kʷ**	**k/g**	**ʔ**
Affricate		**tˢ**	**č**				
Fricative		**s**	**x**				**h**
Approximant			**l**	**y**	**w**		
Nasal	**m**	**n**					

Nonetheless, it has been considered important to indicate this prosodic feature in a reference work such as the present one, so that it can provide with greater precision the real pronunciation of the words and the grammatical forms that relate to them.

[1] Nahuatl languages do not naturally have voiced stops, but under limited circumstances the Nahuatl of Mecayapan and Tatahuicapan does realize the voiceless stop in a voiced manner.

The following consonants have more or less the same value as in English and need no further discussion: **p**, **t**, **k**, **g**, **s**, **l**, **y**, **w**, **m**, **n**. A brief discussion will be given for each of the other sounds, which have their own peculiarities of either pronunciation or orthography.

1.2.1 T^s

This sound is familiar enough from the two consonants ending i**ts**, but the Nahuatl usage has two aspects that are unusual from the English point of view. First, the two sounds are considered a single consonantal sound. This aspect is indicated by the writing of the **s** "release" as a superscript. Second, the sound appears only as the first consonant of a syllable, whereas in native English words the sound never appears in this position (though a Germanic pronunciation of the word **zeitgeist** begins with the sound **ts**). Examples:

t^{s}apoʔ	*banana*	t^{s}i:kaʔ	*ant*
t^{s}aht^{s}i	*shouts*	t^{s}ope:liʔ	*sweet*

1.2.2 $Č$

This sound is represented in English by the digraph **ch**, as in **ch**in.

1.2.3 X

This symbol is potentially very misleading. It is the traditional symbol used in Spanish orthography to represent the **sh** sound as in the English word **sh**ip. It is *never* used here in the regular Latin/English usage to represent the consonantal cluster **ks**. This Nahuatl usage is unusual even from the point of view of Spanish (it reflects an older pronuniciation that has long since become obsolete), but it is well established in Nahuatl studies. Given this situation, this symbol was deemed preferable to the perhaps more logical **š** (which would correspond with **č**).

1.2.4 K^w

This symbol represents a single consonant that consists of two sounds articulated at the same time, namely **k** and **w**. This sound is represented by the English digraph **qu**, as in **qu**ick. This single consonant is represented with the symbol **k^w**. Examples:

k^w a	k^{w}alo	*it hurts*
	k^{w}atampa	*under the tree*
k^w e	k^{w}esiwiʔ	*he got mad*
	k^{w}etax	*leather*
k^w i	k^{w}i:xin	*sparrow hawk*
	ok^{w}ilin	*worm*

1.2.5 H and ʔ

These two sounds are to some extent variants of each other. The **h** is not in itself problematical, but it appears at the *end* of a syllable, a position in which it never appears in English. ʔ is the standard phonetic symbol for the sound known as the glottal stop.

This sound is produced through the closure of the glottis (the opening between the vocals chords). This "sound" appears at the juncture of the two elements in the English expressions **uh-oh** and (substandard) **a apple**. To an English speaker, this brief halt in the flow of speech is not actually perceived as a sound, but it operates as a consonant in Nahuatl, appearing only at the end of syllable. Examples:

po:ʔyowi	*get drunk*	itanaʔnaʔ	*his gum*
itoʔpiyo	*shoot (of a plant)*		

The glottal stop marks the preterite tense of certain verbs. Examples:

asiʔ	*he arrived*	ki:saʔ	*he emerged*
ásiʔya	*he has already arrived*	ki:saʔya	*already emerged*

The glottal stop appears as a preglottalization of **ti** at the end of certain substantives.[1] Examples:

tiʔti *or* tiʔ	*fire*	teʔti *or* teʔ	*stone*
a:ʔti *or* a:ʔ	*water*		

The sound represented by **h** may appear at the start of a word, which is the only normal position for it in English:

hekxowa	*he sneezes*	hokox	*warm*
he:keh	*yes indeed*		

More problematical for the English speaker is the appearance of the sound elsewhere in a word. The aspiration marked by **h** at the end of a syllable (which may also mark the end of a word) seems to be nothing more than a small hiatus in the word whereby a small puff of air is emitted. It is found in each syllable of the following sentence.

amehwa:n isahpa   ihkó:n antahtohkeh.
[*you   early   thus   spoke*]
You spoke like this early.

The pronunciation of **h** at the end of a word cited by itself is easy to miss because in that position the aspiration is heard just like the pronunciation of an open syllable in English. However, words that end with this aspiration contrast with the words that end in a simple vowel, because when a simple vowel appears at the end of an utterance, it is always

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[1] Although in almost all the examples of its use, the glottal stop comes at the end of the syllable, there exist some words in which it appears after a consonant when a vowel has been dropped through a derivational process, with the result that the glottal stop is left at the beginning of the syllable. Example:
    noyʔelamaj   *my grandmother*

pronounced with a brief closure of the throat (less abrupt than the one produced by the glottal stop).[1]

The following examples demonstrate the difference in meaning that is produced when a verb ends in **h**, in a **vowel**, and in the **glottal stop**. The **h** indicates the plural and the glottal stop indicates preterite tense.[2] Examples:

h	nemi nasih	*we are arriving*
	nemi ki:sah	*they are emerging*
vowel:	nemi nasi	*I am arriving*
	nemi ki:sa	*he is emerging*
glottal stop:	yegin nasiʔ	*he arrived a while ago*
	yegin ki:saʔ	*he emerged a while ago*

1.2.6 Semiconsonantal Realization of *i*

i functions as a semiconsonant (equivalent to **y**) when it forms part of the start of a syllable whose nucleus is the vowel that follows. Examples:

ia	miakeh	*many*
	siawiʔ	*he grew tired*
	tiawa:ʔ	*rain*
io	tio:pan	*church (building)*
	tiok^wawiʔ	*mahogany*

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[1] [It is to be noted that all forms of Nahuatl have a tendency to devoice or lose final consonants, and the final **h** and **ʔ** reflect this process. Historically, the marker for the plural forms of the verb was a final **t**, and while this sound is represented with the glottal stop in Classical Nahuatl, it appears regularly as **-h** in the following pages (the **-t** is still attested in Pipil, a conservative Nahuatl dialect of El Salvador). The Nahuatl of Mecayapan and Tatahuicapan de Juárez continues this process of weakening a final consonant into the glottal stop, as in the verbal form **onoʔ** (see Section 18.3.3), which corresponds to the Classical Nahuatl **onok**, and verbs corresponding to Class 2 of Classical Nahuatl that end in a velar stop (see Section 18.2.6). A voiceless articulation of syllable-final consonants is known in Classical Nahuatl, for example the spelling **uc** is used in place of the syllable-initial form **cu** (equivalent to **k^w** in this text), and our form of Nahuatl shows a similar process with other consonants. The word-final sound **s** weakens to **h** in the singular of preterite and future forms of Group 2 verbs reappears in the plural (e.g., **tak^wa:h** vs. **tak^wa:skeh**), and the last syllable of the nominal root **kal-** *house* is weakened to **h** before the absolute ending (i.e., **kah-li**) but reappears in the possessed form (**no-kal** *my house*). —CSM]

[2] In an unaccented syllable at the end of a word, the **h** at times causes the vowel of this syllable to assume a voiceless pronunciation, and this absence of voicing may be the only manifestation of the phoneme **h**.

        pioteksis   *chicken egg*

When **i** appears as the nucleus of a syllable and is placed in front of another vowel in the same word, the two vowels are separated in pronunciation by means of a small cutting off of the voice. This separation is represented in writing through the use of a dash. Examples:

        ni-a:taneki   *I am thirsty*
        ni-o:memeh   *we are two*
        ati-esyoh   *you are anemic*

The use of the dash to indicate glottal separation between two contiguous vowels is also seen in the following examples:

        ta-ihti?   *inside*
        xikča-o?   *wait a moment*
        no-i:xtah   *in front of me*
        to-a:?   *our water*

1.3 Spanish Orthography
1.3.1 Spanish Orthography Used to Spell Nahuatl
The original text of this grammar used an orthography based on the way that the Latin alphabet is adapted to represent Spanish language. To assist the reader of this grammar in reading Nahuatl texts written according to this convention, the salient points of deviation are described under headings listed according to the usage of this version. For each sound an example of a word in the orthography used here is followed by the same word in Spanish orthography.

1.3.1.1 *K*
This sound has a twofold representation. In front of the front vowels **e** and **i**, it appears as **qu**. In front of the back vowels **a** and **o**, it appears as **c**.

        kika:wa   quicahua   *he leaves it*

1.3.1.2 *T^s*
This sound is represented with the digraph **tz**.

        t^{s}i:ka?   tzica'   *ant*

1.3.1.3 *Č*
This sound is represented with the digraph **ch**.

        čiči:?   chichi'   *bitter*

1.3.1.4 *W*
This sound is represented with the digraph **hu**.

we:weh   huᵉhuej   *old man*

1.3.1.5 K^w
This sound is represented with the diagraph **cu**.

k^{w}i:xin   cuᵢxin   *sparrow hawk*

1.3.1.6 ʔ
This sound is represented by an apostrophe (**'**).

mopataʔ   mopata'   *he changed*

1.3.1.7 H
This sound is represented by the letter **j**.

mopatakeh   mopataquej   *they changed*

1.3.2 Spelling of Spanish Words in Nahuatl
Older borrowings of Spanish words have generally been adopted to the different phonological system of Nahuatl, and the new sound is represented according to the principals of Nahuatl orthography. More recent borrowings, however, have been incorporated into Nahuatl without phonetic modification and retain their Spanish spelling. Examples:

Older borrowings:

Nahuatl	Spanish
a:ko:xah	aguja (*needle*)
kawa:yoh	caballo (*horse*)
kompa:leh	compadre (*godfather of one's child*)
mui:nah	mohina (*displeasure*)

More recent borrowings:

bien (*well*)
diez (*ten*)
fiado (*credit*)
miércoles (*Wednesday*)
viernes (*Friday*)
bueno (*good*)
dueño (owner)
luego (*then*)
puente (*bridge*)

1.4 Accentuation
The rules of accentuation are straightforward. Words of two syllable or more are assumed to be accented on the second syllable from the end (that is, that syllable is pronouned

with greater intensity).[1] If the accent falls on a different syllable, this one is marked out with an acute accent (´). Monosyllables are not normally written with an accent. Exceptions:

- With certain conjunctions that can be used as in either an interrogative or relative sense, the interrogative forms are given an accent to distinguish them (see Sections 16.1, 2; 17.1). This principle is applied regardless of the number of syllables in the word.
- The pronoun **yéh** is distinguished from the similar relative pronoun **yeh** by its accent (see Section 5.1.1).
- In certain other instances, the accent is used to distinguish two forms (see Section 17.3.5).
- All examples of words with the accent three or more syllables from the end bear one or more enclitic particles.An enclitic is a word that has no accent of its own and attaches itself to the end of a word that does have an accent (though such a word can have more than one enclitic). The position of the accent of the independent word to which one or more enclitic is attached does not change, and its place is always indicated by the orthographic accent.

Words with regular accent:

ima:	*his/her hand*
timo:yo:ʔ	*spark*
očpanwa:s	*broom*
ayoh	*gourd*
italax	*his belly*
okič	*male, man*
itˢonkal	*his/her hair*
wi:pi:l	*clothing*
lama:r	*the sea*

Words distinguished by accent:

ka:n	*where (relative)*
ká:n	*where (interrogative)*
ke:man	*when (relative)*
ké:man	*when (interrogative)*
iwá:n	*and*

---

[1] [The original text followed the principles of the accentuation of Spanish by assuming that forms ending in **l** or **r** have the prosodic accent on the last syllable unless otherwise noted with an orthographic accent. This convention has no relevance to Nahuatl (that is, there is no reason to expect such forms should be accented any differently from other forms), and so has been ignored here. Hence, whereas in the original text a form like **tó:nal** takes the accent to indicate that it is not accented on the last syllable, here it is written **to:nal** on the assumption that all two-syllable nouns are accented on the next-to-last syllable. —CSM]

íwa:n   *with him*

Words accented on the last syllable

awél   *he cannot*
ihkí:n   *in this way*
ihkó:n   *in that way*
nikpiá   *I have it*
nikpiáh   *we have it*
sehsé: sehsé: *one by one*

Words that have the accent on the last syllable as a result of contraction include:

kité?   *he cut it*
kimá?   *he gave it*

Words Accented before the Next-to-Last Syllable

nikíta?ya   *I have seen it already*
séligo?   *newborn*
pánisan   *shallow*
né:siki?   *it resembles*
á:ma:xti   *underwear*
fue:ráhbapa   *outwards*
ási?yawa?   *truly he has now arrived*
yáhkiyaki?   *they say that he has left*
ompígapaya   *now towards there*

In addition, observe the difference in meaning between the following two words:

Penultimate accent: iyi:xko   *on top*

Antepenultimate accent: íyi:xko   *in his eye*

2. The Verb

The verb is the most variable element in Nahuatl speech, and it can express action or inaction, state, change of state, characteristics, relationships and a person's inner processes. Examples:

action	motalowa	*he runs*
	kahkokʷi	*he lifts it up*
inaction	ka:wi	*it is left*
	mose:wiá	*he is resting*
state	kawa:ni	*he has a fever*
	maya:na	*he is hungry*
change of state	ali:mpatiá	*it gets small*
	miki	*he dies*
characteristics/ qualities	xo:ta	*it shines*
	tamati	*he is wise*
relationships	kipiá	*he has it*
	itatki-ihya	*he becomes owner of*
inner processes	tama:lita	*he hates*
	kimači:liá	*he feels it*

The verb consists of a verbal root to which are attached prefixes of person and mood, endings indicating tense, aspect, number and derivation, as well as sense-bearing reduplicated syllables. There are endings that specify movement that accompanies the primary action, and there is one that marks out an action as being one of a subordinate character that explains the main topic. The diversity of verbal markers is so great that a single root may give rise to more than a thousand variations.

2.1 The Elements of the Verb
In the following synopsis of verb forms, the element in the middle, which is marked out in boldface, is the root, which is the basic part of the verb. In this synopsis, all the words are formed from the same root, which means *to emerge*. It is the first and the last elements that vary.

Singular

1st person	ni**ki:s**a	*I emerge*
2nd person	ti**ki:s**a	*you (sg.) emerge*
3rd person	**ki:s**a	*he/she/it emerges*

Plural

1st person excl.	ni**ki:s**ah	*we emerge*
1st person incl.	ti**ki:s**ah	*we emerge*
2nd person	an**ki:s**ah	*you (pl.) emerge*
3rd person	**ki:s**ah	*they emerge*

In general, the root of the verb can be realized in speech only with the addition of at least one ending.

The first element, the personal prefix, indicates something about the person who carries out the action, that is, the subject of the verb, and it varies according to the grammatical person.

The final element varies according to the **grammatical number**. When the subject is a single person, the verb is in the singular form (unless it bears a plural object). When there are two or more people who carry out the action, the verb bears a plural ending. A more detailed discussion of verbs that bear plural objects is given in Section 9.1.

In summary, the primary verb in Nahuatl consists of three elements: the prefix, the root and the ending.

The elements of the verb **anki:sah** *you (pl.) emerge* are:

> an-   -ki:s-   -ah
> [*pref.   root   ending*]

It is noted that when the subject of the verb corresponds to the third person, it bears no overt prefix:

> ø   -ki:s-   -ah
> [*pref.   root   ending*]
>
> ki:sah *they emerge*

The lack of a prefix is in fact significant, because its absence indicates the third person. To reflect the fact that the absence of any overt prefix serves as the marker of the third person, this "non"-prefix is indicated with the "null set" symbol **ø**.

A fuller presentation of the subject prefixes and the independent pronouns will be given in the appropriate place. Nonetheless, let us pay attention to the endings of the verb forms.

2.2 Tense Endings

The ending of the verb, which is called the *tense ending*, conveys an idea of when the action takes place. Note the variation between the endings of the verbal forms in the following list.

mopat**a**	*it changes*
mopat**as**	*it will change*
mopat**aya**	*it would change, used to change*
mopat**aʔ**	*it changed*
mopat**aka**	*it changed (but did not stay changed)*

All the words in this list are in the third person singular, but the endings vary by the tense of the action.

There are other variations in tense among the plural endings.

mopat**ah**	*they change*
mopat**askeh**	*they changed*
mopat**ayah**	*they would change, used to change*
mopat**akeh**	*they changed*
mopat**akah**	*they changed (but did not remain changed)*

2.3 The Thematic Vowel

Now that we have looked at the differences among certain tense endings, it is necessary for us to pay attention to the first vowel of the ending and note that in the preceding examples, this vowel does not change despite the changes in tense. This is called the *thematic vowel*. We will emphasize the concept of the thematic vowel because of its utility in the classification of verbs, which we will have occasion to examine below.

2.4 The Tenses of the Verb

Although there are many different tenses and aspects of the verb in Nahuatl, let us begin with five basic tenses: the present, future, imperfect, preterite, and transitory preterite. In the following chart the words laid out above are shown in the third person, and on the left are placed the terms by which each tense is named. The basic root means *to change*.

	Singular	Plural
Present	mopata	mopatah
Future	mopatas	mopataskeh
Imperfect	mopataya	mopatayah
Preterite	mopataʔ	moptakeh
Transitory Preterite	mopataka	mopatakah

Conjugation:

Now compare the tense endings of two synopses of verbs in the singular:

	isa-	*to wake up*	tisi-	*to grind*
Present	is**a**	he wakes up	tis**i**	he grinds
Future	is**as**	he will wake up	tis**is**	he will grind
Imperfect	is**aya**	he would wake up	tis**ia:ya**	he would grind
Preterite	is**a?**	he woke up	tis**i?**	he ground
Trans. Pret.	is**aka**	he woke up (but did not remain awake)	tis**ika**	he ground (but the work was of no use)

Both sets of endings vary by the thematic vowel and by the distinction that there is in the marker of the imperfect.

Present	-a	-i
Future	-as	-is
Imperfect	-aya	-ia:ya
Preterite	-a?	-i?
Trans. Pret.	-aka	-ika

Because of these variations we say that there are distinct verbal *conjugations*.

We call the synopsis of tense endings that are taken by the verb **isa** the first conjugation, and we call those taken by the verb **tisi** the second conjugation.

There are five verbal conjugations, which are classified by the tense endings that constitute them, and now an analysis of each will be given.

3. The Conjugations, Group 1

The five conjugations are presented in two groups. Group 1 consists of the first and second, which share certain traits in common that distinguish them from the other conjugations. A comparison of the two synopses given in Section 2.4 reveals the following characteristics shared by the two conjugations in Group 1:

- The ending of the present singular is the thematic vowel and nothing else.
- The thematic vowel is not lengthened in any of the endings.
- The future singular ends in **s**.
- The preterite singular ends in the glottal stop (ʔ).—

Here we are dealing with the regular conjugations; there are differences between these and the irregular conjugations, which are presented in Section 18.0.

3.1 The First Conjugation

Verbs that take the same pattern of endings belong to the same conjugation. For example, from the observation that the verb **mopata** *he changes* and the verb **isa** *he wakes up* take the same tense endings it is known that they belong to the same conjugation.

3.1.1 How to Recognize a Verb of the First Conjugation

The verbs that end in **-a** in the present singular of the indicative mood and in **-as** in the future singular of the indicative belong to the first conjugation. (An explanation will be given below of the meaning of the term *indicative mood.*)

Pay attention to the following list of verbs. They all belong to the first conjugation, and they all end **-a**, which is the thematic vowel.

is**a**	*he wakes up*
ki:s**a**	*he emerges*
tacow**a**	*he buys*
moketˢ**a**	*he stands up*
mopat**a**	*he changes*
mo-it**a**	*he sees himself*
ten**a**	*he moans*

Note that the same verbs end in **-as** in the future singular:

is**as**	*he will wake up*
ki:s**as**	*he will emerge*
tacow**as**	*he will buy*

moketˢ**as**	*he will stand up*
mopat**as**	*he will change*
mo-it**as**	*he will see himself*
ten**as**	*he will moan*

All these verbs are understood to belong to the first conjugation because they have the ending -**as** in the future tense. Any verb that does not end in -**as** in the future does not belong to the first conjugation, even if it takes -**a** in the present.

Rule:

> ALL VERBS THAT END IN -**a** IN THE PRESENT SINGULAR OF THE INDICATIVE MOOD AND ALSO END IN -**as** IN THE FUTURE SINGULAR OF THE INDICATIVE BELONG TO THE FIRST CONJUGATION.

The following are the endings that are used to form the basic tenses for all the persons of the regular verbs of the first conjugation.

	Singular	**Plural**
Present	-a	-ah
Future	-as	-askeh
Imperfect	-aya	-ayah
Preterite	-aʔ	-akeh
Trans. Pret.	-aka	-akah

We now present a verb to serve as a model for the endings of the first conjugation. We call it a *paradigm* because it is presented as a model for all the regular verbs that take the same endings.

3.1.2 Paradigm for the First Conjugation

The verb that serves as the model for the first conjugation is **mopata** *he changes*. In this section it is enough to present it in the third person because the endings do not vary by person. Note that they take the endings already laid out in Section 3.1.1.

**Paradigm in the Third Person
for the First Conjugation**

	Singular	
Present	mopata	*he changes*
Future	mopatas	*he will change*
Imperfect	mopataya	*he would change*
Preterite	mopataʔ	*he changed*
Trans. Pret.	mopataka	*he changed (but did not remain changed)*

	Plural	
Present	mopatah	*they change*
Future	mopataskeh	*they will change*
Imperfect	mopatayah	*they would change*
Preterite	mopatakeh	*they changed*
Trans. Pret.	mopatakah	*they changed*
		(but did not
		remain changed)

3.2 The Second Conjugation

3.2.1 How to Recognize a Verb of the Second Conjugation

All the verbs in the following list belong to the second conjugation. Note that they all end in **-i**, which is the thematic vowel.

tis**i**	*he grinds*
ne:s**i**	*he appears*
te:m**i**	*it becomes full*
tˢo:p**i**	*it gets finished*
kikʷ**i**	*he seize (by the hand)*
kawa:n**i**	*he has a fever*
mahmaw**i**	*he is afraid*

Look at the endings of the same verbs in the future:

tis**is**	*he will grind*
ne:s**is**	*he will appear*
te:m**is**	*he will become full*
tˢo:p**is**	*he will become finished*
kikʷ**is**	*he will seize (by the hand)*
kawa:n**is**	*he will have a fever*
mahmaw**is**	*he will be afraid*

They all end in **-is** in the future.

Rule:

> ALL VERBS THAT END IN **-i** IN THE PRESENT SINGULAR OF THE INDICATIVE MOOD AND ALSO END IN **-is** IN THE FUTURE SINGULAR OF THE INDICATIVE BELONG TO THE SECOND CONJUGATION.

The verbs of the second conjugation take the following basic tense endings in the indicative.

	Singular	**Plural**
Present	-i	-ih
Future	-is	-iskeh

Imperfect	-ia:ya	-ia:yah
Preterite	-i?	-ikeh
Trans. Pret.	-ika	-ikah

3.2.2 Paradigm for the Second Conjugation

The verb **tisi** *he grinds* serves as the model for the tense endings that are used in the second conjugation. Note that they take the endings already laid out in the preceding chart.

**Paradigm in the Third Person
for the Second Conjugation**

Singular

Present	tisi	*he grinds*
Future	tisis	*he will grind*
Imperfect	tisia:ya	*he would grind*
Preterite	tisi?	*he ground*
Trans. Pret.	tisika	*he ground*

Plural

Present	tisih	*they grind*
Future	tisiskeh	*they will grind*
Imperfect	tisia:yah	*they would grind*
Preterite	tisikeh	*they ground*
Trans. Pret.	tisikah	*they ground*

Variant forms of the imperfect

In verbs of the second conjugation, the endings of the imperfect tense can be pronounced in a contracted manner. Examples:

Singular	**Plural**
asia:ya *or* asiá	asia:yah *or* asiáh
tisia:ya *or* tisiá	tisia:yah *or* tisiáh

4. The Conjugations, Group 2

Group 2 consists of the third, fourth and fifth conjugations. The three synopses of endings that are presented next share the following characteristics.

- The preterite singular ends in **h**, and this is not dropped in the plural or in the transitory preterite.
- The ending of the future admits two possible pronunciations: one that ends in **h** and another that ends in **s**. The **h** ending is used more frequently.
- The thematic vowel is long in the future tense.

Within Group 2 there is a subgroup that consists of the third and fourth conjugation. The trait that they share in common is that they attach to the present a specific ending in addition to the thematic vowel, while the fifth conjugation lacks this ending.

4.1 The Third Conjugation
4.1.1 How to Recognize a Verb of the Third Conjugation
All the verbs in the following list belong to the third conjugation. Note that they all end in -**iá**. The thematic vowel is **i**.

ma:lt**iá**	*he bathes*
moon**iá**	*it is drunk*
mo-ilp**iá**	*he is bound*
mota:l**iá**	*he sits down*
mose:w**iá**	*he rests*
mihto:t**iá**	*he dances*
mona:mikt**iá**	*he gets married*

Look at the endings of these same verbs in the future tense:

ma:lt**i:h**	*he will bathe*
moon**i:h**	*it will be drunk*
mo-ilp**i:h**	*he will be bound*
mota:l**i:h**	*he will sit down*
mose:w**i:h**	*he will rest*
mihto:t**i:h**	*he will dance*
mona:mikt**i:h**	*he will get married*

They all end in -**i:h** in the future singular.

Rule:

ALL VERBS THAT END IN **-iá** IN THE PRESENT SINGULAR OF THE INDICATIVE MOOD AND ALSO END IN **-i:h** IN THE FUTURE SINGULAR OF THE INDICATIVE BELONG TO THE THIRD CONJUGATION.

A not very common variant of the future singular is **-i:s**. One can, for example, say **ma:lti:h** or **ma:lti:s**, but the second form is rare. The ending **-i:h** of the third conjugation is distinct from the **-is** of the second.

Any verb that does not end in **-i:h** or **-i:s** in the future does not belong to the third conjugation, even though it ends in **-iá** in the present. For example, the verb **kipiá** *he holds it*, even though it ends in **-iá**, belongs not to the third conjugation, but to the first, because its form in the future is **kipiás** and not **kipi:h**.

The following basic temporal endings are used to conjugate the verbs of the third conjugation.

	Singular	**Plural**
Present	-iá	-iáh
Future	-i:h	-i:skeh
Imperfect	-ia:ya	-ia:yah
Preterite	-ih	-ihkeh
Trans. Pret.	-ihka	-ihkah

These are the endings that are used to form the basic tenses of the indicative for all the persons of regular verbs in the third conjugation.

4.1.2 Paradigm for the Third Conjugation

The verb **ma:ltiá** *he bathes* serves as the model for the basic tense endings that are used in the third conjugation. In this section it is enough to present it in the third person because the endings do not vary by person. Note that they take the same endings as appear in the preceding chart.

**Paradigm in the Third Person
for the Third Conjugation**

	Singular	
Present	ma:ltiá	*he bathes*
Future	ma:lti:h	*he will bathe*
Imperfect	ma:ltia:ya	*he would bathe*
Preterite	ma:ltih	*he bathed*
Trans. Pret.	ma:ltihka	*he bathed (with only temporary effect)*

	Plural	
Present	ma:ltiáh	*they bathe*

Future	ma:lti:skeh	*they will bathe*
Imperfect	ma:ltia:yah	*they would bathe*
Preterite	ma:ltihkeh	*they bathed*
Trans. Pret.	ma:ltihkah	*they bathed (with only temporary effect)*

4.2 The Fourth Conjugation

4.2.1 How to Recognize a Verb of the Fourth Conjugation

All the verbs in the following list belong to the fourth conjugation. Note that they all end in **-owa**. The thematic vowel is **o**.

tem**owa**	he descends
hekx**owa**	he sneezes
mosk**owa**	it warms up
taht**owa**	he speaks
motal**owa**	he runs
tekipan**owa**	he works
mototoč**owa**	he bows

Look at the endings of these same verbs in the future:

tem**o:h**	he will descend
hekx**o:h**	he will sneeze
mosk**o:h**	it will warm up
taht**o:h**	he will speak
motal**o:h**	he will run
tekipan**o:h**	he will work
mototoč**o:h**	he will bow

They all end in **-o:h** in the future singular.

Rule:

> ALL VERBS THAT END IN **-owa** IN THE PRESENT SINGULAR OF THE INDICATIVE MOOD AND ALSO END IN **-o:h** IN THE FUTURE SINGULAR OF THE INDICATIVE BELONG TO THE FOURTH CONJUGATION.

A not very common variant of the future singular is **-o:s**. It is correct to say, for example, **tahto:h** or **tahto:s**, but the second form is rare.

Any verb that does not end in **-o:h** or **-o:s** in the future does not belong to the fourth conjugation, even though it ends in **-owa** in the present. For example, the verb **takowa** *he buys*, even though it ends in **-owa**, belongs not to the fourth conjugation, but to the first, because its form in the future is **takowas** and not **tako:h**.

The verbs of the fourth conjugation take the following endings in the basic tenses of the indicative:

	Singular	**Plural**
Present	-owa	-owah
Future	-o:h	-o:skeh
Imperfect	-owa:ya	-owa:yah
Preterite	-oh	-ohkeh
Trans. Pret.	-ohka	-ohkah

These are the endings that are used to form the basic tenses of the indicative for all the persons of regular verbs in the fourth conjugation.

4.2.2 Paradigm for the Fourth Conjugation
The verb **ta:htowa** *he speaks* serves as the model for the use of the basic tense endings in the fourth conjugation.

**Paradigm in the Third Person
for the Fourth Conjugation**

Singular

Present	tahtowa	*he speaks*
Future	tahto:h	*he will speak*
Imperfect	tahtowa:ya	*he would speak*
Preterite	tahtoh	*he spoke*
Trans. Pret.	tahtohka	*he spoke (without effect)*

Plural

Present	tahtowah	*they speak*
Future	tahto:skeh	*they will speak*
Imperfect	tahtowa:yah	*they would speak*
Preterite	tahtohkeh	*they spoke*
Trans. Pret.	tahtohkah	*they spoke (without effect)*

4.3 The Fifth Conjugation
4.3.1 How to Recognize a Verb of the Fifth Conjugation
The following verbs belong to the fifth conjugation. Note that they all end in **-a**, which is the thematic vowel.

tak^w**a**	he eats
tatank^w**a**	he bites
kinaw**a**	he embraces her
kima:m**a**	he carries it (on his back)
kimahm**a**	he catches it (by hunting or fishing)

Look at the endings of these same verbs in the future tense:

tak^w**a:h**	he will eat
tatank^w**a:h**	he will bite
kinaw**a:h**	he will embrace her
kima:m**a:h**	he will carry it (on his back)
kimahm**a:h**	he will catch it

They all end in **-a:h** in the future singular.

Rule:

ALL VERBS THAT END IN **-a** IN THE PRESENT SINGULAR OF THE INDICATIVE MOOD AND
ALSO END IN **-a:h** IN THE FUTURE SINGULAR OF THE INDICATIVE BELONG TO THE FIFTH
CONJUGATION.

The verbs of the fifth conjugation take the following endings in the basic tenses of the
indicative:

	Singular	**Plural**
Present	-a	-ah
Future	-a:h	-a:skeh
Imperfect	-a:ya	-a:yah
Preterite	-ah	-ahkeh
Trans. Pret.	-ahka	-ahkah

4.3.2 Paradigm for the Fifth Conjugation

The verb **tak^wa** *he eats* serves as the model for the use of the basic tense endings in the
fifth conjugation.

**Paradigm in the Third Person
for the Fifth Conjugation**

	Singular	
Present	tak^wa	*he eats*
Future	tak^wa:h	*he will eat*
Imperfect	tak^wa:ya	*he would eat*
Preterite	tak^wah	*he ate*
Trans. Pret.	tak^wahka	*he ate (but later vomited)*

	Plural	
Present	tak^wah	*they eat*
Future	tak^wa:skeh	*they will eat*
Imperfect	tak^wa:yah	*they would eat*
Preterite	tak^wahkeh	*they ate*
Trans. Pret.	tak^wahkah	*they ate (but later vomited)*

This conjugation includes fewer verbs than the others.

4.4 Comparison of the Tense Endings

Compare the basic tense endings for all the conjugations:

	Group 1		Group 2		
Singular	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
Present	-a	-i	-iá	-owa	-a
Future	-as	-is	-iːh	-oːh	-aːh
Imperfect	-aya	-iaːya	-iaːya	-owaːya	-aːya
Preterite	-aʔ	-iʔ	-ih	-oh	-ah
Trans. Preterite	-aka	-ika	-ihka	-ohka	-ahka
Plural					
Present	-ah	-ih	-iaːh	-owah	-ah
Future	-askeh	-iskeh	-iːskeh	-oːskeh	-aːskeh
Imperfect	-ayah	-iaːya	-iaːya	-owayah	-aːyah
Preterite	-akeh	-ikeh	-ihkeh	-ohkeh	-ahkeh
Trans. Preterite	-akah	-ikah	-ihkah	-ohkah	-ahkah

4.5 An Alternative Classification of the Conjugations

Because of the obvious similarities that they display, the conjugations of Group 1 can be considered a single conjugation. If the rules for the formation of the preterite are applied and the thematic vowel is omitted as a part of the root, the following synopsis of the endings would result:

	Singular	**Plural**
Present	ø	-h
Future	-s	-skeh
Imperfect	-ya/-aːya	-yah/-aːyah
Preterite	-ʔ	-keh
Trans. Pret.	-ka	-kah

Similarly, the conjugations of Group 2 would be reduced to a single one by applying the rules for the formation of the present and the imperfect. The following synopsis would be the result:

	Singular	**Plural**
Present	-á/-wa	-áh/-wah/-h
Future	-:h	-:skeh
Imperfect	-:ya	-yah
Preterite	-h	-hkeh
Trans. Pret.	-hka	-hkah

For the imperfect singular, the ending laid out here would necessarily be placed after the ending of the present singular. Note that the colon (**:**) signifies the lengthening of the preceding vowel.[1]

Nonetheless, the choice was made to present them as five conjugations because in this way it is easier to show in a concrete way the interaction of the ending with the thematic vowel, including vowel lengthening that takes place in the future and imperfect tenses, as well as in the directionals (see Chapter 11) and in the imperative plural of the verbs of Group 2. I consider that the distribution of the verbs into five conjugations is in full agreement with the level of concreteness seen in the traditional treatment of Spanish verbs, which could also be reduced to fewer conjugations through the application of morphophonemic rules.

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[1] [It is to be noted that the alternative analysis corresponds to the now standard division of the verbs of Classical Nahuatl into four classes on the basis of the preterite stem, a system first introduced by J. Richard Andrews and popularized by James Lockhart (the former using capital letters to designate the classes and the latter using numbers). The first and second conjugations here correspond to Class 1 (or A), the third and fourth to Class 1 (or B), and the fifth to Class 4 (or D). Class 2 (or B) corresponds to the category described here as apocopated (or morphophonemically irregular) verbs (see Section 18.2). —CSM]

5. The Pronominal Forms

5.1 Independent Personal Pronouns
5.1.1 Basic Forms of the Personal Pronouns
The independent personal pronouns are:

neh	*I*
teh	*you (sg.)*
yéh	*he, she*
nehame:n	*we (excl.)*
tehame:n	*we (incl.)*
amehwa:n	*you (pl.)*
yehame:n	*they*

Observe that:

1. Unlike the case with English, there is a clear distinction between the singular and plural in the second person.
2. There is no marking of gender in the personal pronouns: **yéh** can signify either *he/him* or *she/her*.
3. The personal pronoun **yéh** is accented in order to distinguish it from the relative pronoun **yeh**.
4. There are two ways of saying *we* depending on whether or not the person being addressed, that is, the listener, is meant to be included. **Nehame:n** and **tehame:n** are the two forms for saying *we/us*, but they do not mean the same thing. We use **nehame:n** when we wish to say *we and not you*. That is, **nehame:n** excludes those with whom we are speaking. For this reason, **nehame:n** is called the *exclusive* form. **Tehame:n** is used when we wish to include those being addressed in saying *we*. This form is called *inclusive*.[1]

   For example, if my family and I are thinking of going somewhere, and I am telling you that we are leaving tomorrow, I would use the word **nehame:n** to say *we* because you are not coming with us. If, on ther other hand, I say directly to my

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[1] [It is to be noted that calling this form the inclusive *first* person plural is to interpret it from the perspective of Spanish and English as a form of the first person. Clearly, the exclusive plural is the pluralized form of the first person singular, while the inclusive form is the pluralized form of the second person singular. That is, in origin the so-called inclusive first person plural actually signifies "you (sg.) and others," the others being understood in context as the speaker (with or without further people). —CSM]

wife, "We are leaving tomorrow," I would use the form **tehame:n** because she is included among those of us who will be going.

The distinction can be expressed by means of the following formula:

    nehame:n   (1st pers. excl.) first person plural
                                      excluding the person being addressed

    tehame:n   (1st pers. incl.) first person plural
                                        including the person being addressed

5.1.2 Variations in the Personal Pronouns

The personal pronouns admit stylistic changes or differences in pronunciation according to the taste of the speaker. The variants for each one are:

neh, nehwa	*I*
teh, tehwa	*you (sg.)*
yéh, yehwa	*he/she/it*
nehame:n, neheme:n, nehameh, nehemeh	*we (excl.)*
tehame:n, teheme:n, tehameh, tehemeh	*we (incl.)*
amehwa:n, amehame:n, ameheme:n,	
amehameh, amehemeh	*you (pl.)*
yehame:n, yeheme:n, yehameh, yehemeh	*they*

The plural pronouns also have contracted variants[1] that are used very often:

nehám, nehém	*we (excl.)*
tehám, tehém	*we (incl.)*
amehám, amehém	*you (pl.)*
yehám, yehém	*they*

See Section 18.2.6, in which apocopation and the contraction are described.

5.2 Pronominal Prefixes

The personal pronouns already presented in this section are those called *independent pronouns*. There are other forms that are called *pronominal prefixes*. These have the function of the personal pronouns of English, but they are not words in themselves. Instead, they appear in front of the root of the verb. They form a variable element in the

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[1] These reduced forms are derived from the ones that end in **-meh**. The **m** is always bilabial, and in addition, because of the dropping of the final **-h**, it has a voiceless pronunciation. In the orthography, no distinction has been made between voiceless and voiced nasals, but such a difference does exist in daily speech.

verb, and indicate the person or persons who carry out the action, and the person or persons who are the object of the verb (see Section 9.6).

5.2.1 Subject Prefixes
The following forms show the personal pronouns and the corresponding subject prefixes, which indicate the person who is carrying out the action.

Note that the third person is marked by the lack of a subject prefix, and this significant absence is marked in the grammatical analysis with the "null group" sign **ø**, which does not of course appear in actual writing.

Singular

1ˢᵗ person	neh	*I*	**ni**koči	*I sleep*
2ⁿᵈ person	teh	*you (sg.)*	**ti**koči	*you (sg.) sleep*
3ʳᵈ person	yéh	*he/she/it*	**ø**koči	*he sleeps*

Plural

1ˢᵗ pers. excl.	nehame:n	*we*	**ni**kočih	*we sleep*
1ˢᵗ pers. incl.	tehame:n	*we*	**ti**kočih	*we sleep*
2ⁿᵈ person	amehwa:n	*you (pl.)*	**an**kočih	*you (pl.) sleep*
3ʳᵈ person	yehame:n	*they*	**ø**kočih	*they sleep*

Variant Forms of the Subject Prefixes
The following examples show the variant forms of the subject prefixes that are used when the root of the verb begins with a vowel:

Singular		Plural	
nasi	*I arrive*	**n**asih	*we (excl.) arrive*
		tasih	*we (incl.) arrive*
tasi	*you (sg.) arrive*	**am**asih	*you (pl.) arrive*
øasi	*he arrives*	**ø**asih	*they arrive*

Here is the paradigm of the subject prefixes. The plural forms of the verb always bear some ending specific to the plural, which is indicated between the parentheses and will be explained next.

	Singular	Plural		
1ˢᵗ person	ni- *or* n-	*(excl.)* ni- *or* n-	(h)
		(incl.) ti- *or* t-	(h)
2ⁿᵈ person	ti- *or* t-	an- *or* am-	(h)
3ʳᵈ person	ø	ø	(h)

5.2.2 Object Prefixes
Another variable element of the verb is the object prefix. Every transitive verb takes an object prefix—whether for the direct or the indirect object—which varies by the

grammatical person of the object. The use of the object prefixes is shown in the following chart of forms whose subject is in the third person singular.[1]

Singular object		**prefix**
ne:kaki	*he hears me*	ne:-
mit^{s}kaki	*he hears you (sg.)*	mit^s:-
kikaki	*he hears him*	ki-

Plural object		**prefix**
ne:kakih	*he hears us (excl.)*	ne:-
te:kaki[2]	*he hears us (incl.)*	te:-
mit^{s}kakih	*he hears you (pl.)*	mit^s-
kikakih	*he hears them*	ki-

Variant Forms for the Object Prefixes

The following examples show the variant forms for the object prefixes that are used when the root of the verb begins with a vowel:

Singular		**Plural**	
neasi *he finds me*		**ne**asih	*he finds us (excl.)*
		teasi	*he finds us (incl.)*
mit^{s}asi *he finds you (sg.)*		**mit^s**asih	*he finds you (pl.)*
kasi *he finds him*		**k**asih	*he finds them*

Compare the independent pronouns with the corresponding prefixes. The possessive prefixes, which will be explained in Section 6.4, are also included.

Person	Independent Pronoun	Verbal Subject Prefix	Verbal Object Prefix	Nominal Possessive Prefix
Singular				
1st	neh	ni-/n-	ne:-/ne-	no-
2nd	teh	ti-/t-	mit^s-	mo-
3rd	yéh	ø-	k(i)	i-

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[1] When the examples require an indication of gender in English, this is given in the masculine, even though in Nahuatl the gender is not specified.
[2] Note that **te:kaki** is the only example of a plural object prefix that does not have a plural ending. See Section 9.1.

Plural				
1st exclusive	nehame:n	ni-/n-	ne:-/ne-	no-
1st inclusive	tehame:n	ti-/t-	te:-/te-	to-
2nd	amehwa:n	an-/am-	mit^s-	amo-
3rd	yehame:n	ø-	k(i)	i-

5.3 Other Independent Pronouns

5.3.1 Demonstrative Pronouns

iní:n	*this*	ini:meh	*these*
inó:n	*that*	ino:meh	*those*
ine:pa	*that (one) over there*	ine:pameh	*those (ones) over there*

5.3.2 Possessive Pronouns

The possessive pronouns are formed from the root **-tatki**, which is an indicator of possession, preceded by a possessive prefix (see Section 6.4).

notatki	*mine*	notatkimeh	*ours (excl.)*
		totatkimeh	*ours (incl.)*
motatki	*yours (sg.)*	amotatki	*yours (pl.)*
itatki	*his*	itatkimeh	*theirs*

5.3.3 Relative Pronouns

yeh   *who, that*   Nehwaʔ nia niki:sati iwán san iní:n
                          notˢotˢol yeh nikakihto?
                      *So I'll go out with just this clothing
                          that I'm wearing.*

ke   *who, that*   Quitaʔ ke nepa wi:ʔ un hombre a caballo
                      He saw that a man on horseback is coming here.

ke:ʔ   *how much*   Xikʷi ke:ʔ tikneki.
                      Take as much as you want.

te: *which, what* Mawi:ki te: wi:ʔ
                      May what is coming come!

5.3.4 Indefinite Pronouns

agah   *someone,*   Anca agah kikahteh.
        anyone   *Perhaps someone left it.*

ayagah *no one*   Miya:nato ka:n ayagah asi.

He left to hide where no one goes.

san a:ʔ	*whoever*	Kirrecibi:rowa san a:ʔ ne:sis. *He receives whoever presents himself.*
tehté:	*something*	Anca tikmantoya tehté: *Perhaps you were cooking something.*
até:	*nothing*	Até: kikʷa. *He eats nothing.*
nité	*nothing*	Anikasiʔ nité. *I found nothing.*

5.3.5 Interrogative Pronouns

té:, té	*what*	Té in tikči:wa? *What are you doing?*
katiá	*which*	Inó:n, katiá gobierno kipertenese:rowa? *Which government does that belong to?*
ké:ski, ke:č ké:ʔ	*how many*	Ké:ski mopilowa:n tikpiá? *How many children do you have?*
		Ké:ʔ mopilowa:n tikpiá? *How many children do you have?*
a:ʔ yéh	*who*	Nikmátiya a:ʔ yéh in mitˢketˢaltih. *I already know who detained you.*

5.3.6 Indefinite Number Pronouns

The adverbial root **noči** *all* is converted into an indefinite number pronoun through the addition of possessive prefixes (see Section 6.4) and the ending **-n**, along with the lengthening of the vowel **i**.

nonoči:n	*all of us (excl.)*
tonoči:n	*all of us (incl.)*
amonoči:n	*all of you (pl.)*
inoči:n	*all of them*

5.3.7 Definite Number Pronouns

There are three groups of definite number pronouns. One group is derived from the dependent root **-se:l-** *sole, only* plus the possessive prefixes and the ending **-ti**.

nose:lti	*I alone*
mose:lti	*you (sg.) alone*
ise:lti	*he alone*
nose:ltimeh	*we (excl.) alone*
tose:lti *or* tose:ltimeh	*we (incl.) alone*
amose:lti *or* amose:ltimeh	*you (pl.) alone*
ise:ltimeh	*they alone*

Another group of definite number pronouns is derived from the number two and higher. These are presented in two subgroups. It is impossible to distinguish the difference in meaning between the two sorts of derivation.

no:me:n *or* no:memeh	*the two of us (excl.)*
to:me:n *or* to:memeh	*the two of us (incl.)*
amo:me:n *or* amo:memeh	*the two of you*
o:me:n *or* o:memeh	*the two of them*
ne:yi:n *or* ne:yimeh	*the three of us (excl.)*
te:yi:n *or* te:yimeh	*the three of us (incl.)*
ame:yi:n *or* ame:yimeh	*the three of you (pl.)*
e:yi:n *or* e:yimeh	*the three of them*
nina:wi:n *or* nina:wimeh	*the four of us (excl.)*
tina:wi:n *or* tina:wimeh	*the four of us (incl.)*
anna:wi:n *or* anna:wimeh	*the four of you (pl.)*
na:wi:n *or* na:wimeh	*the four of them*
nisi:nkohmeh	*the five of us (excl.)*
tisi:nkohmeh	*the five of us (incl.)*
ansi:nkohmeh	*the five of you (pl.)*
si:nkohmeh	*the five of them*
niseyismeh	*the six of us (excl.)*
etc.	

The following group is limited to the numbers from two to four.

no:mexti:n	*the two of us (excl.)*
to:mexti:n	*the two of us (incl.)*
amo:mexti:n	*the two of you (pl.)*
o:mexti:n	*the two of them*
ne:yixti:n	*the three of us (excl.)*
te:yixti:n	*the three of us (incl.)*
ame:yixti:n	*the three of you (pl.)*
e:yixti:n	*the three of them*

nina:wixti:n	*the four of us (excl.)*
tina:wixti:n	*the four of us (incl.)*
anna:wixti:n	*the four of you (pl.)*
na:wixti:n	*the four of them*

6. The Substantive

6.1 The Nature of the Substantive

The substantive is one of the variable elements in speech, and beings, things, feelings and abstract ideas are named with it. It is also called a *substantive noun* or simply *noun*. Its function in the sentence is to form part of the subject and the object of the verb, and in many instances it is accompanied by other words and particles that modify it.

The Nahuatl substantive varies with respect to the grammatical categories of number, diminutive endings, and other derivational forms. Note the following characteristics:

1. It does not vary according to the grammatical category of gender.
2. It is modified by markers of possession (both prefixes and suffixes).
3. It takes markers of predication, including prefixes of person and negation and adverbial clitics.

Note the substantives in the following narrative. A more or less literal translation is given for each word in the Nahuatl text. The substantives are printed in boldface. Also note that one of them (**tatayil**) is translated as a verbal phrase, which shows that there is not an exact correspondence between the one language and the other.

Kén iga moto:ca aha:yo:ʔ
How are beans sowed?

Aha:yo:ʔ moto:ka   ipan   el **mes**   de **septiembre**.
[*beans   are sowed in-it   the month   of September*]
Beans are sowed in the month of September.

Iwá:n moto:ka   ipan **mi:hli**   ca:n   aya   moposteki   **sinti**.
[*and   is sown   in-it the field   where not yet doubles itself the corn*]
It is sown in a field in which the corn has not been doubled over.

Sin-ihtiʔ   moto:ka.   Mocohcoyo:ntiá   **xapoʔ**,
[*corn-within   it-is-sown   it-is-dug-going along   hole*]
It is sown among the cornstalks. Holes get dug one after another,

iwa:n se: kixi:ntiá   **aha:yo:ʔ**.
[*and one   goes-along-dropping-them   the beans*]
and someone goes along droppings the beans.

Támisan   inó:n kito:ka, se? **lugar**   yawi   kito:kati.
[*as soon as he ends   that he-sows-it another place he-goes he-goes-to-sow-it*]
As soon as he finishes sowing there, he goes to another place.

Si ka:n   aya   **tatayil**,   ačto yawi.
[*If where   not-yet what-has-been-tilled first he-goes*]
If it is a place where there has not yet been tilling, first

kitayiti   iga   wel mamoto:ka   **aha:yo:?**.
[*he-goes-to-till-it   so-that it-can that-they-are-sown   the beans*]
he will have to go till it, so that it is possible for the beans to be sown.

—Hipólito Hernández Hernández

The substantives found in the preceding narrative are:

aha:yo:?	*beans*
mes	*month*
septiembre	*September*
mi:hli	*field*
sinti	*corn*
sin-	*corn (dependent root)*
xapo?	*hole*
lugar	*place*
tatayil	*what has been weeded/tilled*

6.2 Substantives Functioning as Predicates

A substantive can serve as a grammatical phrase. The idea of person is inherent in the Nahuatl substantive, and the result of this is that a substantive cited by itself can be specifed as a predicate. It is taken for granted that it is in the third person if it does not bear any other personal prefix.[1] Examples:

ta:ga?	*man*	Ta:ga?.	*It is a man.*
kahli	*house*	Kahli.	*It is a house.*

The following examples bear personal prefixes and other markers of predication.

Nita:ga?.	*I am a man.*	Titá:ga?ya.	*You are now a man.*
Tita:ga?.	*You are a man.*	Atita:ga?.	*You are not a man.*

6.3 Formation of the Plural

The majority of substantives take the ending **-meh** in the plural. Examples:

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[1] [I.e., the subject is the "null set" symbol ø; see Section 2.1. —CSM]

	Singular		**Plural**
kahli	*house*	kahlimeh	*houses*
tepe:yoh	*mountainous area*	tepe:yohmeh	*mountainous areas*
aha:wil	*toy*	aha:wilmeh	*toys*
xi:kama	*jicama (edibile root)*	xi:kamameh	*jicamas*

When the singular ends in the glottal stop (ʔ) or in **-ʔti**, this final element is dropped with the plural is formed in **-meh**.

	Singular		**Plural**
a:maʔ	*paper*	a:mameh	*papers*
a:ʔti	*water, stream*	a:meh	*streams/rivers*
teʔti	*stone*	temeh	*stones*
xo:čiʔ	*flower*	xo:čimeh	*flowers*

There are three substantives whose plural is formed in such a way that the final element changes to **-t** and **-keh** is added to this.

	Singular		**Plural**
we:weh[1]	*old man*	we:wetkeh	*old men*
ilamah	*old woman*	ilamatkeh	*old women*
siwa:ʔ	*woman*	siwa:tkeh	*women*

Some nouns form the plural by varying the word by means of reduplication, that is, by repeating one part of the word. There are three forms of reduplication.

6.3.1 Reduplication in *-h*

In this category of reduplication, the vowel of the syllable placed in front is always short, and in addition **-h-** is added to it. Examples:

	Singular		**Plural**
ta:gaʔ	*man*	tahta:gaʔ[2]	*men*
noyi:x	*my eye*	nohnoyix[3]	*my eyes*
moma:	*your hand*	momahma:	*your hands*
inakas	*their ear*	inahnakas	*their ears*

---

[1] The plural of **we:weh** can also be **we:wehmeh**.

[2] The substantive **tahta:gaʔ** *men* is the only one whose plural is formed in this way in the absolute (i.e., non-possessed) form. The plural can also be formed with the ending **-meh**: **tahta:gameh** or **ta:gameh**.

[3] In the case of **nohnóyi:x** *my eyes*, the reduplication includes the possessive prefix.

6.3.2 Reduplication with Vowel Lengthening

In this category of reduplication, the vowel of the syllable placed in front is long and without aspiration (**-h**). Only one substantive that forms its plural in this way is attested.

Singular		Plural	
cone:ʔ	*child*	co:coneʔ	*children*

6.3.3 Reduplication with Vowel Shortening

Substantives with the diminutive ending **-tˢi:n** form the plural by reduplicating the ending. The vowel of the syllable put in front is short and without aspiration (**-h**). Examples:

Singular		Plural	
a:ltepe:tˢi:n	*small town*	a:ltepe:tˢitˢi:n	*small towns*
xo:čitˢi:n	*small flower*	xo:čitˢitˢi:n	*small flowers*

A fuller explanation of diminutive substantives will be given below in Section 7.2.

6.4 Possession in Substantives

6.4.1 Definite Possessive Prefixes

The possession of a substantive is indicated by adding a possessive prefix. The possessive prefixes can be specified as follows:

	Possessive Singular	Possessive Plural
1ˢᵗ Person	no-	no- *(excl.)* to- *(incl.)*
2ⁿᵈ Person	mo-	amo-
3ʳᵈ Person	i-	i-

Like the independent pronouns, the possessive prefixes do not reflect the gender of the substantive. The following chart shows the use of the definite possessive prefixes. Note that the prefixes **no-** and **i-** are used in both the singular and plural, and that when the possessor to whom the possessive refers is plural, the possessive obligatorily includes the plural marker **-meh** as the *plural of the possessor*.

Possessive Singular	Possessive Plural
nokal *my house*	**no**kal**meh** our (excl.) house **to**kal our (incl.) house
mokal *your (sg.) house*	**amo**kal *your (pl.) house*
ikal *his/her house*	**i**kal**meh** *their house*

6.4.2 Further Observations on the Plural in the Possession of the Substantive
In general, the ending **-meh** with substantives that are possessed marks the plurality of the possessor, and the plural number of the possessed substantive is not marked. Nonetheless, there are certain formats to indicate the plural of the possessed.

a. In the case of a substantive with the prefix of the second person singular **mo-**, because of the fact that this form is clearly singular, the plural **-meh** indicates the plurality of the possessed and not the possessor. Example: **mokalmeh** *your (sg.) houses*.

b. When the substantive has a diminutive suffix, this is reduplicated to express the plurality of the possessed. Examples with **a:ma?** *paper* and the diminutive **-tˢi:n**:

	Singular Possessor	**Plural Possessor**
Singular Substantive	noa:matˢi:n *my little paper*	noa:matˢi:nmeh *our little paper*
Plural Substantive	noa:matˢitˢi:n *my little papers*	noa:matˢitˢi:nmeh *our little papers*

c. In the case of substantives whose plural is formed by reduplicating the root, the reduplication indicates the plurality of the possessed. Examples with **kone:?** : *child* and the reduplicated plural **ko:kone:?** *children*:

	Singular Possessor	**Plural Possessor**
Singular Substantive	nokone:? *my child*	nokone:meh *our child*
Plural Substantive	noko:kone:? *my children*	noko:kone:meh *our children*

d. The plural of certain substantives of familial relationship are normally indicated with the ending **-wa:n**. Examples:

noko:ko noko:komeh
my elder brother *our elder brother*

noco:cowa:n noko:kowa:nmeh
my elder brothers *our elder brothers*

6.4.3 The Indefinite Possessive Prefix *te:-*
Some substantives of familial relationships obligatorily bear a possessive prefix. When one wishes to use such words without specifying the possessor, the prefix **te:-** is used.

te:tah *the father*
te:ye:? *the mother*

te:pilt^si:n	*the child*
te:co:co	*the elder brother*

The prefix **te-**, a variant form of **te:-**, appears in an idiomatic expression:

te-ihikni:n   *good people (lit. everyone's brother)*
[**-ih-** reduplicated syllable; **-ikni:n** brother]

6.4.4 Dependent Roots

Many substantives lose an element of their ending when they are combined with a possessive prefix.[1]

For example, in the following substantives, the last syllable is dropped to get the dependent root.

čikiwiʔ	*basket*	nočiki	*my basket*
ko:skaʔ	*necklace*	noko:s	*my necklace*

In the following substantives, the last syllable, which begins with **m**, is reduced to **n** to form the dependent root.

atimiʔ	*louse/lice*	noatin	*my louse/lice*
tekomaʔ	*tecomate*	notekon	*my tecomate*

In substantives ending in **-hli**, the ending is reduced to **-l**.

kahli	*house*	nokal	*my house*
xa:hli	*sand*	noxa:l	*my sand*

In the following examples, the last syllable is reduced to the glottal stop.

metaʔ	*metate*	nomeʔ	*my metate*
petaʔ	*sleeping mat*	nopeʔ	*my sleeping mat*
k^we:yi	*skirt*	nok^we:ʔ	*my skirt*

In other substantives, the glottal stop or final **-ʔti** is dropped.

a:maʔ	*paper*	noa:ma	*my paper*
teʔti	*stone*	note	*my stone*

---

[1] [In Classical Nahuatl, the non-possessed noun is said to be in the absolute form, which is analyzed as consisting of an absolute ending that is added to the stem of the noun. The analysis here takes the absolute ending to be an element of the substantive itself, considering that this element is dropped in the possessed form. It is worth noting that the ending **-ti** is the most common form of the absolute ending. —CSM]

Here is the word **ohti** *path*, in which the ending **-ti** is exchanged for **-wi** in its possessed form.

ohti   *path*   noohwi   *my path*

To form the dependent root, however, the entire ending is dropped:

oht^si:n   *little path, trail*

Note that the same form of the root, **oh-**, appears as part of a verb.

neohmagaʔ   *he showed me the way*
[**ne-** variant form of **ne:-** *me*; **-magaʔ** *gave*]

7. Special Forms of the Substantive

7.1 Vocative Forms of the Substantive

The vocative forms are the ones used to mark out the person to whom the word is directed. There are three forms: two that are used to call from afar and one that used in conversation. The first serves to call to a person of any status, the second is used by males to call to someone of the same or lesser status, and the third is used in conversations with people of any status.

7.1.1 General Vocative

-w is added to a substantive and the last syllable is accented.

Notáw!	*(My) father!*	[notah *my father*]
Nopíw!	*(My) child!*	[nopilt^{s}i:n *my child*]
Nopi:píw!	*(My) aunt! (My) elder sister!*	[nopih *my aunt* or *elder sister*]
Konéw!	*Child!*	[kone:ʔ *child*]
Pe:drów!	*Peter!*	[Pedro *Peter*]
Mariyáw!	*Mary!*	[Maria *Mary*]

7.1.2 Male Vocative

-éi is added to the name of a person.

Pe:droéi!	*Peter!*
Pa:bloéi!	*Paul!*
Juani:yohéi!	*Little John!*
Jo:liohéi!	*Julius!*

7.1.3 Conversational Vocative

The voice is raised and the last syllable of the name is accented.
Also, **-h** is added if the word does not have it.

Conversational vocative form		**Original form**
Pe:dróh!	*Peter*	Pe:dro
Pa:blóh!	*Paul*	Pa:blo
Jo:lióh	*Julius*	Jo:lioh
Mariyáh	*Mary*	Mariyah

Kén, Pe:droh?	*How are you, Peter?*
Vi:tóh, nemi mit^{s}no:t^{s}ah.	*Victor, they're calling you.*

7.2 Diminutive Forms of the Substantive
7.2.1 Variant of the Diminutive -tˢi:n
With the ending **-tˢi:n** are formed derivative diminutive substantives, and these designate persons, animals or things that are smaller than those named by the original substantives. With the addition of **-tˢi:n**, a final glottal stop or **-tʔi** is lost.

tetˢi:n	*little stone*	[teʔti *stone*]
a:tˢi:n	*little stream*	[a:ʔti *water, stream*]
to:to:tˢi:n	*little bird*	[to:to:ʔ *bird*]

Sometimes the diminutive indicates affection.

we:wehtˢi:n	*little old man*	[we:weh *old man*]
notahwe:wehtˢi:n	*my little grandfather*	[notahwe:weh *my grandfather*]
ilamahtˢi:n	*little old woman*	[ilamah *old woman*]
noyʔelamahtˢi:n	*my little grandmother*	[noyʔelamah *my grandmother*]

There are words that do not appear in the singular without the diminutive ending.

nopiltˢi:n	*my child*
čokotˢi:n	*a young man*
takotˢi:n	*a young woman*

The first of the preceding words takes an irregular plural.

nopilowa:n	*my children*

In addition, the diminutive plural is formed by adding **-tˢitˢi:n** to the plural ending **-wa:n**.

nopilowa:ntˢitˢi:n	*my little children*

The plurals of **čocotˢi:n** and **tacotˢi:n** are regular.

čokomeh	*young men*	čokotˢitˢi:n	*young boys*
takomeh	*young women*	takotˢitˢi:n	*young girls*

7.2.2 Variants of the diminutive, -či:n and -li:n
The following words exhibit the characteristics of diminutives in terms of their meaning and the manner of forming their plural, and they can perhaps be considered as variants of the diminutive ending.

taoči:n	*little girl*	taočiči:n	*little girls*
taoli:n	*little girl*	taolili:n	*little girls*
čooči:n	*little boy*	čoočiči:n	*little boys*
čooli:n	*little boy*	čoolili:n	*little boys*

Nonetheless, those that end in **-li:n** can still take the diminutive **-tˢi:n**.

| taoli:ntˢi:n | *little girl* | taoli:ntˢitˢi:n | *little girls* |
| čooli:ntˢi:n | *little boy* | čooli:ntˢitˢi:n | *little boys* |

The word **čakali:n** *shrimp* admits two variants in the diminutive plural. Note that the **-l** of the root is not dropped even when it is followed by another **l**.

| čakali:n | *shrimp* | čakal-lili:n | *little shrimps* |
| čakaltˢi:n | *little shrimp* | čakaltˢitˢi:n | *little shrimps* |

7.3 Possessive Forms in *-yo,* the Suffix of Intrinsic Belonging

When added to the possessed substantive, the ending **-yo**[1] generally indicates that the substantive forms an intrinsic part of the possessed noun or is in physical contact with it, or that this substantive is something directly identified with it and not merely a possession.

7.3.1 As a Part of the Body

By means of the ending **-yo** a distinction is made between that which forms part of one's own body and that which counts as a possession. Examples:

naka? *flesh*
    Possession   nonaka *my meat (distinct from my body)*
    Part of the body   nonakayo *my flesh (part of my body)*

omi? *bone*
    Possession   noomi *my bone (distinct from my body)*
    Part of the body   noomiyo *my bone (part of my body)*

Note that the majority of the parts of the body do not take **-yo**. It is only added to those that could have a double meaning: either a part of the body or a possession distinct from the body. Examples that do not take **-yo**:

notˢontekon	*my head*
noxa:ya?	*my face*
nokeč	*my neck*
noma:	*my arms, my hands*
nokxi	*my legs, my feet*

[1] The suffix **-yo** is the substantival possessive form of a group of endings of inherent belonging that includes the absolute substantive form **-yo:?**, the adjectival form **-yoh** (see Section 8.3.1), and the verbal forms **-yowi** and **-yo:tiá** (see Sections 9.10 and 9.11).

7.3.2 As an Integral Part of Some Object

With the ending **-yo** a distinction is also made between things possessed by someone and things that form a part of something. Examples:

kʷawiʔ *timber, stick*
      ikʷa   *his timber (someone's possession)*
      ikʷayo   *its handle (part of a tool made of wood)*

tˢohmiʔ *cover*
      itˢohmi   *his cover (someone's possession)*
      itˢohmiyo   *its fur*

7.3.3 As a Product

Be means of the ending **-yo** a distinction is made between what is possessed by someone and what is produced by something. Examples:

nexti *lime, ash*
      inex   *his lime (someone's possession)*
      inexyo   *its ash (product of something like shells)*

tomi:n *money*
      itomi:n   *his money (someone's possession)*
      itomi:nyo   *its money (product of something that is sold)*

7.3.4 As an Identity

Another interesting usage of **-yo** relates to the *identity* of persons or things. While it is impossible to come up with a literal translation, the grammatical mechanism suggests that the identity of the person or thing is considered to be something possessed. Examples:

Things:
    Té ixo:čiyo i:n?   *What type of flower is this?*
        [**té** variant of **té:** *what?*; **i-** possessive pref.; **xo:či-** dependent form
        of *flower*; **i:n** *this*]

    Té itˢapoyo i:n?   *What sort of banana is this?*
        [**tˢapo-** dependent form of **tˢapoʔ** banana]

Persons:
    Té i-Pe:droyo?   *Which Peter? (What is his name?)*

    Té ikoronelyo?   *Which colonel? (What is he called?)*

7.3.5 Other Uses of *-yo*

Other uses of **-yo** are:

sokiʔ *mud*
      isokiyo   *his griminess (something that covers the body)*

a:ʔti *water*
        iya:yo   *its sap (of a plant), its juice (of a fruit)*

či:po *tick*
        iči:poyo   *his tick (something attached to his body)*

xapoʔ *hole, cave*
        ixapoyo   *its cave (place where it lives, intimately identified*
                                                with the animal)

xe:toʔ *a fool*
        ixe:tokyo   *his foolishness (action that manifests his character)*

7.4 Forms with the Ending *-yo:ʔ*

The ending **-yo:ʔ**, the absolute suffix of intrinsic belonging, generally appears in words
that are not possessed, just as **-yo** (without either lengthening of the vowel or the glottal
stop) is used with words that are possessed. Nonetheless, there are few words ending in
-yo:ʔ whose derivation is clear and obvious.

ahko *tall*
        ahkoyo:ʔ   *loft (lit. high part)*
        iyahkoyo kahli   *the loft of the house*

owaʔ *cane*
        owaa:yo:ʔ   *cane juice (lit. cane water part)*
        iya:yo owaʔ   *the juice of the cane*

There are other examples whose derivation remains obscure:

        ihiyo:ʔ   *breath*
        pakiyo:ʔ   *woof (of a fabric)*

7.5 Forms in *-yoh* Describing Places

The suffix **-yoh** is used to form substantives describing places. When added to a
substantival root, **-yoh** signifies an area characterized by an abundance of the thing
indicated by the root.

a:wayoh   *stand of oak trees*   [a:waʔ *oak*]
aha:yo:yoh   *bean patch*   [aha:yo:ʔ *beans*]
sakayoh   *hay field, grassland*   [sakaʔ *hay, grass*]
teyoh   *stony terrain*   [teʔti *stone*]
tepe:yoh   *mountainous area*   [tepe:ʔ mountain]

The plural is formed with **-meh**.

> teyohmeh   *stony areas*
> tepe:yohmeh   *mountainous areas*

The substantival character of this class of words ending in **-yoh**[1] is evident in the following examples:

as object of a preposition
> ipan a:wayoh   *in the stand of oak trees*

as nucleus of a compound with a postposition
> kʷayohihti?   *inside the forest*

as nucleus of a phrase with a demonstrative adjectival
> inó:n tepe:yoh   *that mountainous area over there*

7.6 Substantives Derived from Verbs
7.6.1 The Substantivalizing Ending *-lis*

Constructions with the ending **-lis** refer for the most part to the occasion on which the action represented by the verbal root is carried out. The enclitic substantive ending **-ti** is optionally added to it.[2] Examples:

> takʷalis *or* takʷálisti   *a meal, a banquet*
>   [takʷa *he eats*]

> tatalis *or* tatálisti   *fire, burning*
>   [tata *it burns*]

> tapixkalis *or* tapixkálisti   *harvest (of corn)*
>   [tapixka *harvest corn*]

> owatekilis *or* owatekílisti   *cane cutting*
>   [owa? *sugarcane*; quiteki *he cuts it*]

> čo:kalis *or* čo:kálisti   *weeping*
>   [čo:ka *weep*]

> ta:tapowalis *or* ta:tapowálisti *conversation, chat*
>   [ta:tapowa *he converses, chats*]

In certain cases, the occasion referred to is an extended period of time.

> to:nalis *or* to:nálisti   *dog days*

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[1] The substantival ending **-yoh** described here is distinct from the adjectival ending **-yoh** (see Section 8.3.1).

[2] [As noted before, **-ti** is the most common absolute ending for nouns. —CSM]

[to:na *it's sunny*]

There are some examples of verbal substantives ending in **-lis** that have an abstract meaning. For the most part, these are possessive forms.

ima:lnemilis   *his bad behavior*
        [ma:lnemi *he lives badly*]

ita-ikne:lis   *his compassion*
        [ta-ikne:liá *he loves, is compassionate*]

7.6.2 Other Deverbal Substantives
Other examples of substantives derived from verbs are:

notapi:ʔ   *my bundle*   [kipi:ki *he wraps it up*]
notatˢoyo:n   *my fritters*   [kitˢoyo:na *he fries it*]
kʷahkʷawil   *firewood*   [kʷahkʷawi *he cuts firewood*]
tahto:l   *word, statement* [tahtowa *he speaks*]
ite:ntˢakka   *its lid*   [mote:ntˢakʷa *it gets covered*]
ikʷa:tˢakʷaya   *her veil*   [mokʷa:tˢakʷa *she veils herself*]

8. The Adjective

The adjective is another variable part of the sentence. The adjectives qualify substantives or specify the extent to which their meaning is understood.

8.1 Determinative Adjectives

Determinative adjectives are normally classified into four groups: demonstrative, numerical (number adjectives), indefinite and possessive. In Nahuatl, the demonstratives, the number adjectives and the indefinites are independent words, while the possessives are inseparable prefixes.

8.1.1 Demonstrative Adjectives

The demonstrative adjectives are:

Singular		**Plural**	
iní:n	*this*	ini:meh	*these*
ini:mpa	*like this*	iní:mehpa	*like these*
inó:n	*that*	ino:meh	*those*
ino:mpa	*like that*	inó:mehpa	*like those*
ačí:n	*this much (non-countable thing)*	ahačí:n	*this many (countable things)*
ači:mpa	*such a large (thing)*	ahačimpa	*this size (things)*
ačó:n	*that much (non-countable thing)*	ahačó:n	*so many (non-(countable things)*
ačo:mpa	*that size (thing)*	ahačo:mpa	*things that size*
ine:pa	*that (one) over there*	ine:pameh	*those (ones) over there*
iné:bapa	*like that one*		

The demonstrative adjective[1] is placed in front of the substantive.

iní:n ilwiʔ	*this festival*
ino:meh siwa:tkeh	*thse women*
ine:pa čokotˢi:n	*that child over there*

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[1] When the demonstrative adjective replaces a substantive, it is called a demonstrative pronoun, which is presented in Section 5.3.1

8.1.2 Number Adjectives

The numbers are determinative adjectives that serve the purpose of counting. The numerical system of Spanish is mostly used, but there are four special numbers that are used very frequently:

se: *one*   o:me *two*   e:yi *three*   na:wi *four*

Both the meaning and the function of the number change when the first syllable is reduplicated.

sehsé:	*by ones, one by one, one at a time*
oho:me	*by twos, two by two, two at a time*
ehe:yi	*by threes, three by three, three at a time*
nahna:wi	*by fours, four by four, four at a time*

The number becomes a number pronoun when it replaces people. In the numbers from *two* to *four*, the vowel of the last syllable is lengthened and **-n** is added to it. Examples:

o:me:n *the two of them*   e:yi:n *the three of them*
na:wi:n *the four of them*

For the numbers *five* and higher, which are borrowings from Spanish, a comparable mechanism is used to form the number pronouns. **-meh** or **-hmeh** is added, and the borrowing undergoes the same changes of pronunciation typical of such borrowings.

si:nkohmeh	*five people*
seyismeh	*six people*
die:hmeh	*ten people*

Like the other pronouns, the numbers can take a personal prefix (see Sections 5.3.6 and 5.3.7).

no:me:n *or* no:memeh	*we are two (excl.)*
ame:yi:n *or* ame:yimeh	*you (pl.) are three*

8.1.3 Indefinite Adjectives

The indefinite adjectives specify the substantive in a vague manner. They can be interpreted as masculine or feminine without the form of the adjective varying in Nahuatl.

alí:n	*small amount*	amayi:n	*many*
katiá	*what*	inewi	*all*
mia?	*much*	nisé:	*none*
ke:ski	*so much*	sewo?	*other*
se?	*other*	te:	*what*

In addition, borrowings from Spanish are used: *varios, algún, ningún, todo*, etc.

The indefinite adjectives also act as interrogatives. Examples:

té hora?	*what time?*
ké:ski años	*how many years?*
katiá ohti?	*which way?*

When the indefinite adjective replaces a substantive it becomes a pronoun (see Sections 5.3.3 and 5.3.5).

8.1.4 Possessive Adjectives

The possessive adjectives of Nahuatl are not independent words, but appear as particles bound to the substantive. They are called *possessive prefixes*, and always form a part of the compound substantive. The possessive prefixes are:

no-	*my*	no-	*our (excl.)*
		to-	*our (incl.)*
mo-	*your (sg.)*	amo-	*your (pl.)*
i-	*his/her/its*	i-	*their*

These are exlained more fully in Section 6.4.

8.2 Qualifying Adjectives
8.2.1 Independent Qualifying Adjectives

The qualifying adjectives indicate what persons, animals and things are like. Like substantives, adjectives in Nahuatl lack indicators of gender, and for this reason all the translations are given in the masculine.

eti:ʔ	*heavy*	wehkapan	*tall*
takʷaktiʔ	*hard*	weyaʔ	*long*
sese:ʔ	*cold*	tˢope:liʔ	*sweet*
we:liʔ	*tasty*	čiká:ʔ	*ripe, mature*

The plural is generally formed by reduplicating the first syllable.

Singular	Plural	
čičíʔ	čihčičíʔ	*bitter*
weyi	wehweyi	*big*
xamočtiʔ	xahxamočtiʔ	*toasted, crunchy*
ali:mpa	ahali:mpa	*small*

The independent qualifying adjective can function as a statement, taking personal prefixes and number markers. If it bears no personal prefix, it is understood to be in the third person (see Section 2.1).

Singular

Ničapatiʔ.	*I am chubby.*
Tičapatiʔ.	*You (sg.) are chubby.*
Čapatiʔ.	*He is chubby.*

To form the plural of adjectives that end in **-iʔ**, the glottal stop is dropped and **-keh** is added. It may or may not have reduplication.

Plural

Ničapatikeh. *or* Ničahčapatikeh.	*We (excl.) are chubby.*
Tičapatikeh. *or* Tičahčapatikeh.	*We (incl.) are chubby.*
Ančapatikeh. *or* Ančahčapatikeh.	*You (pl.) are chubby.*
Čapatikeh. *or* Čahčapatikeh.	*They are chubby.*

If the adjective ends in **-i:ʔ**, the plural is formed by adding **-meh**, with the glottal stop becoming **k** in front of the **-meh**.

Singular	neti:ʔ	*I'm heavy*
Plural	neti:kmeh *or* neheti:kmeh	*We (excl.) are heavy*

If the adjective ends in **-n**, this ending is dropped and **-meh** added.

Singular	niwehkapan	*I'm tall*
Plural	niwehkapameh *or* niwehwehkapameh	*We (excl.) are tall*

8.2.2 Inseparable Qualifying Adjectives

The inseparable adjective is placed in front of the substantive stem to form a compound substantive, like the English *blackbird*. Examples:

yama:nikta:l *soft earth*
        [**yama:nik-** variant of **yama:niʔ** *soft*;
        -ta:l dependent root of **ta:hli** *earth*]

seliʔto:to:tˢi:n *tender little bird*
        [**seliʔ-** *tender*; **-to:to:-** dependent root of **to:to:ʔ** *bird*;
        -tˢi:n diminutive]

petˢtaxkal *simple tortilla*
        [**petˢ-** dependent root of **petˢtiʔ** *simple*; **-taxkal** *tortilla*]

na:mo:lkʷawiʔ *regular tree*
> [**na:mo:l-** *ordinary, common*; **-kʷawiʔ** *timber, tree*]

8.3 Denominal Adjectives
8.3.1 The Ending *-yoh* Used Adjectivally

When attached to certain nouns, the suffix **-yoh** *to be full of something* or *to have something* turns them into adjectives.

okʷilyoh *wormy*
> [**okʷil-** dependent root of **okʷilin** *worm*]

a:yoh *juicy, watery*
> [**a:-** dependent root of **a:ʔti** *water*]

tanyoh *toothed, with teeth*
> [**tan-** dependent root of **tanti** *tooth*]

tahyoh *having a father*
> [**tah-** dependent root of **te:tah** *father*]

The adjectival ending **-yoh** described here corresponds to the ending **-yo** of intrinsic belonging and to the derivative verbal endings **-yowi** and **-yo:tiá**, as can be seen in the following examples:

original substantive	nakaʔ	*flesh*
derived substantive	nonakayo	*my body, my muscles*
adjective	nakayoh	*corpulent, muscular*
intransitive verb	nakayowi	*fatten up, have growing muscles*
transitive verb	kinakayo:tiá	*fatten him, make his muscles grow*

There is another ending **-yoh** that is of a substantival nature, and it is described in Section 7.5.

8.3.2 The Ending *-tah* Used Adjectivally

The ending **-tah** is used to form adjectives derived from nouns, and these are used to qualify the circumstance of time or place. They give the sense that there is an abundance of the thing signified by the substantive root. Their function is predicative, never substantival. Examples:

tetah *rocky*
> [**te-** dependent root of **teʔti** *rock*]

sokitah *muddy*
> [**soki-** dependent root of **sokiʔ** *mud*]

ta:lpino:ltah *dusty*
> [**ta:l-** dependent root of **ta:hli** *earth*; **pino:l** *dust*]

tiawa:tah *rainy*
>[**tiawa:-** dependent root of **tiawa:?** *rain*]

tekpintah *with fleas*
>[**tekpin** *flea*]

When the circumstance is general or extensive in time, the adjective can take the prefix **ta-** *everywhere* without changing the sense of the word.

tasokitah   *muddy everywhere*
tatiawa:tah   *rainy everywhere*

8.4 Contrast between Adjectival and Adverbial Forms

Compound words formed with **-tah** that are used adjectivally are distinguished from compounds with the same ending that are used as locatival adverbs (see Section 17.3.1). To function locatively, the adjectives have to have the relative adverb **ka:n** placed in front of them. The adverbial words do not have this requirement. Examples:

Adjectival forms
>Ninenkeh   ka:n   tetah.
>[*we-went   where it-is-rocky*]
>*We went to a place where there are many rocks.*

>Ninenkeh   ka:n   sokitah.
>[*we went   where it-is-muddy*]
>*We went to a place where there is a lot of mud.*

Adverbial forms
>Ninenkeh   ilwitah.
>[*we walked to-the-festival*]
>*We walked to the festival.*

>Ninenkeh   okotah
>[*we walked to-the-pine-grove*]
>*We walked to the pine grove.*

The prefix **ta-** is obligatory in the formation of the predicative adjective with the root **-mix-** *clouds*.

tamixtah   *there are many clouds, it is cloudy*

Compound adjectives in **-tah** that are derived from nouns are turned into verbs by having derivative verbal endings added to them (see Section 9.8.2).

9. Transitivity in the Verb

9.1 Differences between Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Transitive verbs are those that appear with an object prefix and express an action that can pass from one person or thing to another. Examples:

nimitˢita	*I see you (sg.)*	[-it(a) *to see*]
te-i:xmati	*he knows us*	[-i:xmat(i) *to know*]
kino:tˢa	*she calls him*	[-no:tˢ(a) *to call*]
tine:tečowa	*you (sg.) meet me*	[-teč(o) *to meet*]

Intransitive verbs are those that do not bear an object prefix and whose action does not happen to another person or object. Examples:

panowa	*it passes*	[-pan(o) *to pass*]
tinemi	*you (sg.) go*	[-nem(i) *to go*]
xo:ta	*it is burning*	[-xo:t(a) *to burn*]
nisa	*I awake*	[-is(a) *to wake up*]

Many verbal roots can be transitive or intransitive. In general, the transitive form (which take an object) bears separate endings from those of the intransitive verbs, that is, there is a change of conjugation. The more common differences between the endings of the intransitive verb and those of the corresponding transitive one are:

	Intransitive		**Transitive**	
-i	(*first conjugation*)	-a	(*second conjugation*)
-i	(*first conjugation*)	-iá	(*third conjugation*)
-iwi	(*first conjugation*)	-owa	(*fourth conjugation*)

Note the correspondence between the intransitive and the transitive forms in the following examples:[1]

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[1] In terms of their meaning, all the intransitive forms laid out here deal with a change in state, and the corresponding transitive forms are in reality of a causative type; each one of the examples could be translated with the phrase *to make it...* For example, kika:wa *he leaves it* or *he makes it remain*.

-i — -a

Intransitive		Transitive	
ka:wi	*it remains*	kika:wa	*he leaves it*
xitomi	*it unties*	kixitoma	*he unties it*
tˢo:pi	*it ends*	kitˢ:opa	*he ends it*
pa:ti	*it dissolves*	kipa:ta	*he dissolves it*

-i — -iá

Intransitive		Transitive	
te:mi	*it fills up*	kite:miá	*he fills it*
tami	*it finishes*	kitamiá	*he finishes it*
pahti	*it heals*	kipahtiá	*he cures it*
se:wi	*it goes out (fire)*	kise:wiá	*he extinguishes it*

-iwi — -owa

Intransitive		Transitive	
poliwi	*it gets lost*	kipolowa	*he loses it*
kʷesiwi	*he is annoyed, angry*	kikʷesowa	*he annoys him*
pačiwi	*he calms down*	kipačowa	*he calms him*
sosoliwi	*it comes apart*	kisosolowa	*he takes it apart*

Other Intransitive/Transitive Pairs

-a — iá

tata	*it burns*	kitatiá	*he burns it*

-owa — -owiá

temowa	*it comes down*	kitemowiá	*he lowers it*

-owi — -owa

tapowi	*it opens*	kitapowa	*he opens it*

Rules for the formation of the plural of transitive verbs

The use of the prefixes **ne:-**, **mitˢ-**, and **ki-** in the plural requires a plural termination given that these prefixes do not themselves mark grammatical number, but can be used in both a singular and a plural sense. The general rules are:

a.   The transitive verb takes a plural ending
    1. if the subject is plural
    2. if the object is plural (unless this is indicated with the prefix **te:-**)
    3. if the subject and the object are plural.

b.   The transitive verbs that include **te:-** do not take a plural ending if the subject is singular.

The plural form of a verb with one of the endings **ne:-**, **mitˢ-**, and **ki-** can have three meanings. Examples:

> ne:kakih   *he hears us (plural object)*
> *they hear us (plural subject and object)*
> *they hear me (plural subject)*

In any event, the meaning is determined by the context in which the phrase appears. For example, the inclusion of an independent pronoun in the clause can serve to indicate which element is in the singular, thereby making it clear that the other is in the plural. Examples:

> Neh ne:kakih   *They hear* me.
> Yéh ne:kakih   He *hears us*.

9.2 Intransitive Verbs with the Prefix *ta-*

Another type of intransitive verb is derived from transitive verbs through the use of the generalizing prefix **ta-**, which replaces the object prefix. Examples:

Intransitive		**Transitive**	
tahtowa	*he speaks*	kihtowa	*he says it*
tama:lita	*he hates*	kima:lita	*he hates it*
takʷa	*he eats*	kikʷa	*he eats it*
takaki	*he hears*	kikaki	*he hears it*

The prefix **ta-** serves various functions, and one of these is to make transitive verbs intransitive. When it is used in this manner, the verb lacks direct objects.[1] The meaning of an intransitive verb derived in this manner is always that of an action carried out by the subject, which performs the role of *agent*. On the other hand, the original meaning of the intransitive verb is commonly a change of state, something that happens to the subject or that the subject does to himself. Examples:

Intransitive (original)	temowa	*he comes down*
Transitive (causative)	kitemowiá	*he lowers it (makes it comes down)*
Intransitive (derivative of the causative)	tatemowiá	*he brings a load down*

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[1] [It might be clearer to call **ta-** the indefinite object marker, which is the terminology used for Classical Nahuatl. That is, all transitive verbs in Nahuatl need to have an object marker, and **ta-** is used if the speaker has no particular object in mind. This usage differs from that of English, which can use a transitive verb without an expressed object, for example *he eats sloppily*. It would be better to describe such a usage as *absolute* rather than *intransitive* (after all, the verb *eat* does have an object but this is omitted as being unnecessary to the thought). —CSM]

Intransitive (original)	kʷesiwi	*she gets annoyed*
Transitive (causative)	kikʷesowa	*he bothers her*
Intransitive (derivative of the causative)	takʷesowa	*he is bothersome (causes annoyance)*

We make a distinction between the prefix **ta-** and the object prefixes for the following reasons:

1. When **ta-** replaces the direct object prefix, the verb becomes intransitive (as explained before).
2. The prefix **ta-** is one of the first rank, that is, other elements do not intervene between **ta-** and the root, while the object prefixes are not bound to the root so intimately. Example:

   | kipoxkʷa | *he eats it too much* | [kikʷa *he eats it*] |
   | poxtakʷa | *he eats too much* | [takʷa *he eats*] |

3. It is also possible to add to the verbs that take **ta-** an object prefix that reflects the indirect object in applicative constructions (see Section 14.1). (The Nahuatl verb cannot take more than one object prefix.)

   Examples:

With direct object	**With indirect object**
kipa:ka *he washes it*	kipa:kiliá *he washes it for her*
With generalizing prefix	**With indirect object and generalizing prefix**
tapa:ka *he does the washing*	kitapa:kiliá *he does the washing for her*

9.3 Transitive or Intransitive Verbs without Change

Certain verbs can be transitive or intransitive without changing conjugation. The third-person object is formed by adding **ki-** to the root.

Intransitive		**Transitive**	
taksa	*he steps*	kitaksa	*he steps on it*
tayi	*he weeds*	kitayi	*he weeds it*
pixka	*he harvests*	kipixka	*he harvests it*
tisi	*he grinds*	kitisi	*he grinds it*
to:ka	*he sows*	kito:ka	*he sows it*
ta:wiá	*it shines*	kita:wiá	*he lights it*
asi	*he arrives*	kasi	*he comes upon it*

ma:na	*he stretches*	kima:na	*he stretches it*
posteki	*it breaks*	kiposteki	*he breaks it*
toto:niá	*it warms up*	kitoto:niá	*he warms it*

9.4 Reflexive Verbs

Reflexive verbs are those that take the object prefix **mo-**. The action of the verb is put into operation by the subject, and it happens to this same subject.

ni**mo**ta:liá	*I seat myself*
ti**mo**ta:liá	*you (sg.) seat yourself*
mota:liá	*he seats himself*

ni**mo**ta:liáh	*we (excl.) seat ourselves*
ti**mo**ta:liáh	*we (incl.) seat ourselves*
an**mo**ta:liáh	*you (pl.) seat yourselves*
mota:liáh	*they seat themselves*

When the context indicates, this type of construction can be interpreted in a reciprocal sense whereby two or more subjects carry out the action and do it to each other. Examples:

| Momagakeh. | *They struck each other.* |

| Timonekih | *You and I want each other.* |

9.5 Verbs with Inseparable Object

Certain substantive roots are combined with verbal roots to form compound verbs that contain an object.

9.5.1 Verbs with Inseparable Direct Object

When the verb is composed of a transitive verbal root and a substantive as direct object, the compound appears as an intransitive form since it does not admit an object prefix or an independent object. Examples:

mi:lči:wa *he makes a field*
  [**mi:l-** dependent root of **mi:hli** *field*; **-čiwa** *to make*]

tik^{w}i *it catches on fire*
  [**ti-** dependent root of **ti?ti** *fire*; **-k^{w}i** *to catch*]

kalahkok^{w}ih *raise a house*
  [**kal-** dependent root of **kahli** *house*; **-ahkok^{w}i** *to raise*; **-h** plural]

9.5.2 Verbs with Inseparable Circumstantial Object

When the verb is composed of a substantive root as circumstantial complement and a transitive verbal root, the compound is transitive or reflexive. This usage is comparable to English verbs like *to pistol-whip* or *spoon-feed someone*. Examples:

kitaxkalkimilowa *he wraps it in a tortilla*
       [**ki-** third-person object prefix; **-taxkal** *tortilla*; **-kimilowa** *to wrap*]

mokʷa:wi:teki *he hits himself in the head*
       [**mo-** reflexive prefix; **-kʷa:-** dependent root signifying *head*;
       -wi:teki *to strike*]

kiko:nkʷa *he eats it from a pot*
       [**ki-** third-person object prefix; **-ko:n-** dependent root of **ko:mi?** *pot*;
       -kʷa *to eat*]

9.6 Combination of Subject Prefixes with Object Prefixes

Next is a presentation of all the possible combinations of subject and object prefixes, with the plural element indicated with **-h**. It is necessary to bear in mind that the tenses not presented here take other endings in the plural. The plural of the imperative-subjunctive mood ends in **-ca:n** (see Section 12.2).

First-person subject

nimitˢ…	*I (do the action) to you (sg.)*
nik…	*I to him*[1]
nimitˢ… h	*I to you (pl.)* *we (excl.) to you (pl.)* *we (incl.) to you (sg.)*
nik… h	*I to them* *we (excl.) to them* *we (excl.) to him*
nimo…	*I to myself*
nimo… h	*we (excl.) to ourselves*

First-person inclusive plural subject

tic… h	*we (incl.) to them* *we (incl.) to him*

---

[1] To simplify the presentation, when the examples require an indication of gender in English, only the masculine is given, even though the gender is not specified in the Nahuatl.

timo… h   *we (incl.) to ourselves*

Second-person subject

tine:…   *you (sg.) to me*

tik…   *you (sg.) to him*

anne:… h   *you (sg.) to us (excl.)*
you (pl.) to me[1]
you (pl.) to us (excl.)

anki… h   *you (sg.) to them*
you (pl.) to him
you (pl.) to them

timo…   *you (sg.) to yourself*

anmo… h   *you (pl.) to yourselves*

Third-person subject

ne:…   *he to me*

mit^s…   *he to you (sg.)*

ki…   *he to him*

ne:… h   *he to us (excl.)*
they to us (excl.)
they to me

te:…   *he to us (incl.)*

te:… h   *they to us (incl.)*

mit^s… h   *they to you (sg.)*
he to you (pl.)
they to you (pl.)

---

[1] [Note that the plurality of the object has led to the use of the second person *plural* subject marker for a singular subject, **ti-** being reserved for the inclusive first person plural. —CSM]

ki… h	*he to them*
	they to them
	they to him
mo…	*he to himself*
mo… h	*they to themselves*

Imperative forms

xine:…	*you (sg.) to me*
xine:… ka:n	*you (pl.) to me*
	you (pl.) to us (excl.)
	you (sg.) to us (excl.)
xik…	*you (sg.) to him*
xik… ka:n	*you (sg.) to them*
	you (pl.) to him
	you (pl.) to them
ximo…	*you (sg.) to yourself*
ximo… ka:n	*you (pl.) to yourselves*

9.7 Stylistic Use of *te:-* in Place of *ne:-*

For reasons of preference and style, the object prefix **te:-** can replace **ne:-** in contexts in which the idea of the exclusive plural is taken for granted or the exclusive/inclusive contrast is of no importance. In this usage, the grammatical number of **te:-** is indeterminate.

Combinations

tite:…	*you (sg.) to me*
ante:… h	*you (sg.) to us*
	you (pl.) to me
	you (pl.) to us

Imperative forms

xite:…	*you to me*
xite:… ka:n	*you (sg.) to us*
	you (pl.) to me
	you (pl.) to us

Examples:

Ayá:ʔ ante:wi:gayah no:ʔ *or* Ayá:ʔ anne:wi:gayah no:ʔ
Wouldn't you take me too? (by car)

Ači xite:pale:wi. *or* Ači xine:pale:wi.
Help me a little.

9.8 Intransitive Derivative Verbs in *-tiá*

When added to a substantival, adjectival or adverbial root, the derivational ending **-tiá** converts the root into a verb that expresses the idea that the subject is modified by taking on the character expressed by the root. Verbs derived in this way are always intransitive.

9.8.1 When the Original Form is a Simple Root

weyitiá	*he is getting bigger*	[weyi *big*]
tayowatiá	*night comes on*	[tayowa *night*]
ačitiá	*he gets a bit better*	[ači *a little*]
a:tiá	*it becomes watery*	[**a:-** dep. root of **a:ʔti** water]
o:metiá	*it divides in two*	[o:me *two*]
wehkapantiá	*it becomes high*	[wehkapan *high*]
xi:lo:tiá	*it becomes green corn*	[**xi:lo:-** dep. root of **xi:lo:ʔ** *green corn*]

The tense endings of intransitive verbs in **-tiá** are those of the first conjugation.

	Singular	
Present	weyitiá	*it is getting bigger*
Future	weyitiás	*it will be getting bigger*
Imperfect	weyitia:ya	*it used to get bigger*
Preterite	weyitiáʔ	*it got bigger*
Trans. Pret.	weyitiaka	*it had gotten bigger*
Subjunctive Mood	maweyitiá	*may it get bigger*

Plural

Tense		
Present	weyitiáh	*they are getting bigger*
Future	weyitiáskeh	*they will getting bigger*
Imperfect	weyitia:yah	*they used to getting bigger*
Preterite	weyitiakeh	*they got bigger*
Trans. Pret.	weyitiakah	*they had gotten bigger*
Subjunctive Mood	maweyitiaka:n	*may they get bigger*

9.8.2 When the Original Form is a Compound Adjective in *-tah*

The compound adjectives in **-tah**, which are derived from substantives, are turned into verbs through the addition of the intransitive ending **-tiá**. Examples:

Original form	**Derivational verbal form**	
tamixtah *it is cloudy*	tamixtahtiá	*it is clouding over*
	tamixtahtiás	*it will cloud over*
	tamixtahtia:ya	*it would cloud over*
	tamixtahtiá?	*it clouded over*
	tamixtahtiaka	*it had clouded over*

A stative form is derived by adding the ending **-to?** or one of the markers that corresponds to it. Examples:

tamixtahtito?	*it is cloudy*
tamixtahtitos	*it will be cloudy*
tamixtahtitoya	*it used to be cloudy*

9.9 Intransitive Derivative Verbs in *-yowi*

When added to a substantival root, the derivational ending **-yowi** (second conjugation) converts the root into an intransitive verb that signifies that the subject undergoes a change by acquiring what is indicated by the root. This verbal ending corresponds to the adjectival ending **-yoh**, which was described in Section 8.3.1.

Verbal form		**Adjectival form**	
sokiyowi	*it gets dirty, muddy*	sokiyoh	*it is dirty, muddy*
okʷilyowi	*it gets wormy*	okʷilyoh	*it has worms*
po:?yowi	*it becomes smoked*	po:?yoh	*it is smoked*
ma:yowi	*it becomes branched*	ma:yoh	*it has branches, arms*

Original substantival form

soki? *mud*	[dep. root: **soki-**]
okʷilin *worm*	[dep. root: **okʷil-**]
po:kti *smoke*	[dep. root: **po:k-** or **po:?**]
(i)ma?:*(his) hand, arm, branch*	[dep. root: **-ma:-**]

It is conjugated with the tense endings of the second conjugation.

Singular

Present	sokiyowi	*he gets muddy*
Future	sokiyowis	*he will get muddy*
Imperfect	sokiyowia:ya	*he used to get muddy*
Preterite	sokiyowi?	*he got muddy*
Trans. Pret.	sokiyowika	*he had gotten muddy*
Subjunctive Mood	masokiyowi	*may he get muddy*

Plural

Present	sokiyowih	*they get muddy*
Future	sokiyowiskeh	*they will get muddy*
Imperfect	sokiyowia:yah	*they used to get muddy*
Preterite	sokiyowikeh	*they got muddy*
Trans. Pret.	sokiyowikah	*they had gotten muddy*
Subjunctive Mood	masokiyowika:n	*may they get muddy*

9.10 Transitive Derivative Verbs in *-yo:tiá*

When added to a substantival root, the derivational ending **-yo:tiá** (third conjugation) converts the root into a transitive verb that signifies that the subject affects the object by adding to it what is indicated by the substantive root. The original substantive normally appears in the possessed form, with the ending of intrinsic belonging.

Verbal form

kimekayo:tiá	*He adds a cord to it*
ki-a:yo:tiá	*He fills it with liquid (gas in the tank)*
kikʷayo:tiá	*He adds a handle (of wood) to it*
kitanyo:tiá	*He makes notches in it (in a trunk as steps)*

Possessed substantival form

imekayo	*his cord, cable*
i-a:yo	*its juice, liquid*
ikʷayo	*its handle*
itanyo	*its notches*

Original substantival form

meka?	*cord, string*	[dep. root: **-meka-**]
a:?ti	*water*	[dep. root: **-a:-**]
kʷawi?	*wood, stake*	[dep. root: **-kʷa**]
tanti	*tooth*	[dep. root: **-tan-**]

It is conjugated with the endings of the third conjugation.

Singular

Present	kimekayo:tiá	*he adds a cord to it*
Future	kimekayo:ti:h	*he will add a cord to it*
Imperfect	kimekayo:tia:ya	*he used to add a cord to it*
Preterite	kimekayo:tih	*he added a cord to it*
Trans. Pret.	kimekayo:tihka	*he had added a cord to it*
Subjunctive Mood	makimekayo:ti	*may he add a cord to it*

Plural

Present	kimekayo:tiáh	*they add a cord to it*
Future	kimekayo:ti:skeh	*they will add a cord to it*
Imperfect	kimekayo:tia:yah	*they used to add a cord to it*
Preterite	kimekayo:tijkeh	*they added a cord to it*
Trans. Pret.	kimekayo:tihkah	*they had added a cord to it*
Subjunctive Mood	makimekayo:ti:ka:n	*may they add a cord to it*

9.11 Derivative Transitive Verbs in -*wiá*

When added to a substantival root, the derivational ending **-wiá** (third conjugation) converts the root into a transitive verb that signifies that the original substantive affects the object in some manner. Examples:

Derivative verbs		**Original substantive**
kito:nalwiá	*he suns it*	[to:nal *sunlight*]
ki-ehekawiá	*he aired it*	[ehekaʔ *wind*]
ki-istawiá	*he salts it*	[istaʔ *salt*]
kinexwiá	*he spreads lime on it*	[nexti *lime*]
kito:ka:wiá	*he names, calls him*	[ito:ka:ʔ *his name*]

It conjugates with the endings of the third conjugation.

Singular

Present	kito:nalwiá	*he suns it*
Future	kito:nalwi:h	*he will sun it*
Imperfect	kito:nalwia:ya	*he used to sun it*
Preterite	kito:nalwih	*he sunned it*
Trans. Pret.	kito:nalwihka	*he had sunned it*
Subjunctive Mood	makito:nalwi	*may he sun it*

Plural

Present	kito:nalwih	*they sun it*
Future	kito:nalwi:skeh	*they will sun it*
Imperfect	kito:nalwia:yah	*they used to sun it*
Preterite	kito:nalwihkeh	*they had sunned it*
Trans. Pret.	kito:nalwihkah	*they had sunned it*

Subjunctive Mood   makito:nalwi:ka:n   *may they sun it*

9.12 Impersonal Forms of the Verb

The impersonal forms of the verb are special forms that are used when there is no need to specify the subject or the object and it is important to specify only that the activity takes place.

When added to the verbal root, the ending **-lo** make the verb impersonal. It is conjugated with special tense endings. Verbs of a transitive character appear with the *generalizing* prefix **ta-**, which makes them intransitive, or with the *reflexive **mo-***. With the exception of **mo-**, the impersonal verb never takes a personal prefix. The impersonal forms can be translated into English with the phrase *there is* plus a substantive derived from the appropriate verb or with the subject *one*. Examples:

kalakilo	*there is entry, one enters*	[kalaki *he enters*]
čo:kalo	*there is weeping, one weeps*	[čo:ka *he weeps*]
takʷalo	*there is eating, one eats*	[takʷa *he eats*]
mikilo	*there is dying, one dies*	[miki *he dies*]
momačti:lo	*there is studying, one studies*	[momačtiá *he studies*]

In the conjugation of the impersonal forms, the ending of the present is used when the tense is indeterminate, and the ending of the preterite is used as a present. The transitory preterite and the plural forms are lacking. Examples:

Indet. pres.	kalakilo	*there is entry, one enters*
Pret. as pres.	kalakilo:ʔ	*there is entry, one enters*
Future	kalakilo:h	*there will be entry, one will enter*
Imperfect	kalakilowa:ya	*there was entry, one would enter*
Subjunctive Mood	makalakilo	*may there be entry, may one enter*

10. Basic Tenses of the Verb

The basic tenses already laid out are: present, future, imperfect, preterite and transitory preterite. Examples of the use of each of these are presented below. Underneath most of the entire sentences, a literal translation of each word is given in square brackets.

10.1 Present Tense
The present in Nahuatl is used as in English to express truths of an indeterminate time and habitual acts. Examples:

Inó:n aha:yo:ʔ   kiki:xtiáh,   todo kita:liáh   en venta.
[*That bean(s) they-take-it-out,   all they-will-place-it on sale*]
They will take those beans out and place them all on sale.

Nigah yawi   sinti bonito. Ayá:ʔ či:čikotehkawi.
[*Here it-goes (grows) corn good-looking. Not it-crooked-rise.*]
Good-looking corn grows here. It doesn't grow uneven.

Inó:n   xi:lo:ʔ   kanah   se: mano kita:liá.
[*That green-corn somewhere one hand it-puts-it*]
That green corn in places produces five.[1]

Iní:n remedio   nokta   póxsanya   iga   mokowa.
[*This medicine certainly   much-part. of emphasis-now that it-buys-itself*]
This medicine certainly gets bought a lot now.

Inó:mpakiʔ   aye:kti   iga   ti^{k}wah.
[*That-part. of explication-part. of hearsay   it's not a good thing   that we-eat-it*]
Reportedly, as for that thing, it is not good for us to eat it.

Tehame:n atimomakah   de k^{w}enta[2] kén iga   wet^{s}i kiawa:ʔ.
[*We   not-we-give-ourselves -account   how that it-falls rain*]
We don't know how it is that the rain falls.

---

[1] [The Spanish borrowing *mano* (lit. *hand*) is used to signify *a group of five* (apparently ears of corn). —CSM]
[2] [The phrase **timomakah de k^{w}enta** is a calque of the Spanish idiom *nos damos de cuenta*. —CSM]

Neh yeh ihko:mpa   pox ne:kʷehkʷesowa.
[*I   who   thus*-part. of explication *much-he-annoys-me*]
Anyone who acts like that annoys me a great deal.

10.2 Future Tense

The future is used in some cases like the future of English. Examples:

Kén nikihli:h? *How will I tell him?*
Tikmatis té iga mitˢno:tˢa. *You will know why he is calling you.*

In Nahuatl, the future is used more frequently and in a greater variety of contexts than in English. For example, the following sentence contains three futures, one translated into English with a future, one with a participle, and one with a present.

Iga   ikʷá:ʔ tamis   nikpili:nas, kénya   nikči:was?
[*That when   it-will-stop I-will-spin   how-now I-will-make-it*]
When I stop spinning, how will I do it then?

The future is used to describe something of which one imagines that it can happen. The following paragraph contains three verbs in the future.

Si ke:man   tipohpoliwis   ipan se: kʷayoh, entonces inó:n fruta,
[*If some day   you-will-lose-yourself on-it one forest, then   that fruit*]
If you get lost in a forset some time, then that fruit

wel tictahkotapa:nas.   Entonces en seguida tiki:sas   ipan   inón kʷayoh.
[*it-can you-will-split-it. Then   at once   you-will-pass on-it   that mountain*]
you'll be able to split it. Then you will get out of that mountain quickly.

The future is often used in exhortations meant to keep someone from doing something by accident or through carelessness, although the translation does not always reflect this.

Amo tiwetˢis!
(Make sure you) don't fall!

Teh   iná:n timona:miktiá iwá:n   notakotˢi:n.
[*You (sg.) now   you-will-marry with-her my daughter*]

Pero amo tikmagas   ke:man.
[*But not   you-will-hit-her   some day.*]

Today you are marrying my daughter. But (make sure you) don't ever hit her!

10.3 Imperfect Tense

The imperfect tense in Nahuatl corresponds for the most part to the imperfect in Spanish. The use of this tense gives the verbal action the aspect of duration or habit (English *was doing X*, *would do X* or *used to do X*). The endings **-aya** and **-a:ya** indicate this tense.

> Ya:ya   mi:lkočiti   cada   día.
> [*He-was-going he-goes-to-sleep-in-field   every day.*]
> *He would go every day to sleep in (his) field.*

> Tayowaka:n   ki:sayah   ma:pačimeh.
> [*At night   they-would-emerge the raccoons*]
> *The raccoons would come out at night.*

The imperfect can also indicate actions started but not finished or those that one desired to carry out but did not.

> Nikowaya   tˢapoʔ pero anikasiʔ.
> [*I-was-buying bananas but   I-did-not-find-them*]
> *I tried to buy bananas but I didn't find any.*

> Nita:tapowaya mowa:n   pero animitˢtečoh.
> [*I-was-chatting with-you but not-I-reach-you*]
> *I wanted to chat with you but I didn't find you.*

The imperfect is also used in a conditional sense.

> Ma iga nikipiaya tomi:n, nikowaya.[1]
> [*If that I-had-it   money, I-would-buy-it.*]
> *If I had the money, I would buy it.*

10.4 Preterite Tense

The preterite is the form for the past, expressing completed action.

> Kiwi:gaʔ   iča:n.
> [*He-took-him his-home.*]
> *He took him home.*

> Iní:n owaʔ yeh kito:gaʔ   mopiltˢi:n yawi   xo:čowati.
> [*This cane that he-planted-it your-child it-is-going it-is-going-to-bloom.*]
> *This cane that your child planted is going to bloom.*

---

[1] [On the last form, the object prefix **-k-** is apparently omitted for phonological reasons; see Section 12.2.2 with footnote. —CSM]

Tine:-i:tih   a:ʔti   póxsanya,
[*You (sg.)-gave-me-to-take water much*-part.-*now*

este   nonahnagas-ihtiʔ ki:sa a:ʔti.
until my-ears-within   emerges water]
You gave me a lot of water until the water came out of my ears.

Ni   agah   atahtoh.
[*Nor someone not-he-spoke*]
Nobody said anything.

The character of the preterite is distinguished from the transitory preterite in terms of the effect or result of their respective actions. Unless the verb has an inherently transitory aspect, like **kitaʔ** *I saw it* or **nitakʷi:gaʔ** *I sang*, the preterite signifies not only that the action was put into effect but that the result of this action endures until the present.

10.5 Transitory Preterite
The transitory preterite, on the other hand, signifies that the result of the action has been reversed in some way and that it did not endure until the present. This tense is used to express acts whose effect has turned out to be transitory. The ending **-ka** indicates the transitory preterite.[1]

Kiwi:gaka   iča:n.
[*He-took-it his house*]
He took it home. (Implication: *but he no longer has it there.*)

Wa:lka la comisión.
[*The commission arrived.*] (Implication: *but it has left.*)

Niksohka   tˢotˢol.
[*I-hung-it-out the clothes*]
I hung out the clothes. (Implication: *but but took them back in*)

Wa:kika   a:ʔti.
[*It-dried-up water*]
The water dried up. (Implication: *but there is water again.*)

The transitory preterite is normally translated into English with the pluperfect or the simple past, so that the preceding examples can be translated as follows.

---

[1] The use of the transitory preterite says nothing about how much time has elapsed since the action was put into effect. It may have happened a moment or a long time ago. Given this fact, we do not use the term *remote preterite* that has been given to it in various other dialects of Nahuatl.

He had taken it home.

The commission had arrived.

He had hung out the clothes.

The water had dried up.

The transitory preterite is also used to signify interrupted actions whose realization almost happened but was avoided. Examples:

Nimikika. *I almost died.* (Implication: *I was on the point of dying but got better.*)

Tiwetˢika.[1] *You almost fell.* (Implication: *You began to fall but caught yourself.*)

Conditional uses
The transitory preterite is also used in conditions.

ma iga ayá:ʔ tikʷaligakah tonáyiloh,   tipa:tˢiwikah.
[*If that not   we-had-it-brought our-raincoat, we-would-dampen-ourselves*]
If we hadn't brought our raincoats, we would have gotten wet.

---

[1] The word **tiwetˢíka** *you almost fell* is normally said as an immediate reaction when one sees a companion stumble.

11. Directional Tenses

11.1 Direction Towards or Away from the Speaker

There are two groups of endings that combine the idea of direction with that of tense, and they are used when the action of the verb implies that the subject changes location in relation to the speaker.

A distinction is made between two movements: (1) *towards there* (in that the subject departs from the speaker) and (2) *towards here* (in that the subject approaches the speaker). There are three tenses: (1) present-future, (2) preterite, and (3) transitory preterite; the meaning of these will be discussed in detail later. Examples:

Direction towards there

takowati	*he goes* or *will go to make purchases*
takowato	*he went to make purchases*
takowato:ya	*he went and made purchases (and returned)*

Direction towards here

takowaki	*he comes* or *will come to make purchases*
takowako	*he came to make purchases*
takowako:ya	*he came and made purchases (and returned)*

Verbs belonging to the conjugations of Group 2 lengthen the thematic vowel when they take the endings of the directional tense. It can be said that the directional tenses are formed with the same stem as the future is, if the thematic vowel is considered to be a part of the stem.

Present (basic)	ma:ltiá	*he bathes*
Future (basic)	ma:lti:h	*he will bathe*

Directional tense towards there

Present and future	ma:lti:ti	*he goes to bathe*
Preterite	ma:lti:to	*he went to bathe*
Transitory Pret.	ma:lti:to:ya	*he went and bathed (and returned)*

Directional tense towards here

Present and future	ma:lti:ki	*he comes to bathe*
Preterite	ma:lti:ko	*he came to bathe*
Transitory Pret.	ma:lti:ko:ya	*he came and bathed (and returned)*

To form the plurals of the directional tenses, **-h** is added to the ending.

Direction towards there	**Singular**	**Plural**
Present and future	-ti	-tih
Preterite	-to	-toh
Transitory Pret.	-to:ya	-to:yah

Direction towards here	**Singular**	**Plural**
Present and future	-ki	-kih
Preterite	-ko	-koh
Transitory Pret.	-ko:ya	-ko:yah

11.2 Auxiliary Verbs of Movement

Verbs with the directional ending are normally accompanied by an independent auxiliary verb of movement, such as one of the following:

ya:h	*he will go*
yawi	*he goes*
yahki	*he went (and has not yet returned)*
yahka	*he went (and has already returned)*
wi:ʔ	*he will come, is coming*
wa:lah	*he came (and is still here)*
wa:lka	*he came (and left again)*

Together with the verb of movement, the construction is formed as follows:

Singular

ya:h takowati	*he will go to make purchases*
yawi takowati	*he is going to make purchases*
yahki takowato	*he went to make purchases*
yahka takowato:ya	*he went and made purchases*
wi:ʔ takowaki	*he will come or is coming to make purchases*
wa:lah takowako	*he came to make purchases*
wa:lka takowako:ya	*he came and made purchases*

Plural

ya:skeh takowatih	*they will go to make purchases*
yawih takowatih	*they is going to make purchases*
yahkih takowatoh	*they went to make purchases*
yahkah takowato:yah	*they went and made purchases*
wi:tˢeh takowakih	*they will come or is coming to make purchases*
wa:lkeh takowakoh	*they came to make purchases*
wa:lkah takowako:yah	*they came and made purchases*

11.3 The Values of the Directional Tenses

In the use of the endings of the directional tenses, the selection of the ending depends on the direction of the movement of the subject and the place in his path in which he is found, from the point of view of the speaker. Here is a summary of the values for each tense:

Present and future	impending or started movement action of the verb: future tense
Preterite	completed movement (in one direction) action of the verb: time undefined
Transitory preterite	movement returned action of the verb: past time

The following charts illustrate the correlation among these values. The vertical line represents an imaginary division between *here* and *there*, and the arrows mark the path of the subject. The points where these cross over a line determine the changes in tense, which are indicated by the horizontal lines.

Direction towards there

Dividing line between
here and there

		HERE	THERE
-ti	Present and Future	*When he has not yet gone*	
-to	Preterite	*When he has already gone but not yet returned*	Action Realized
-to:ya	Transitory preterite	*When he has already returned*	
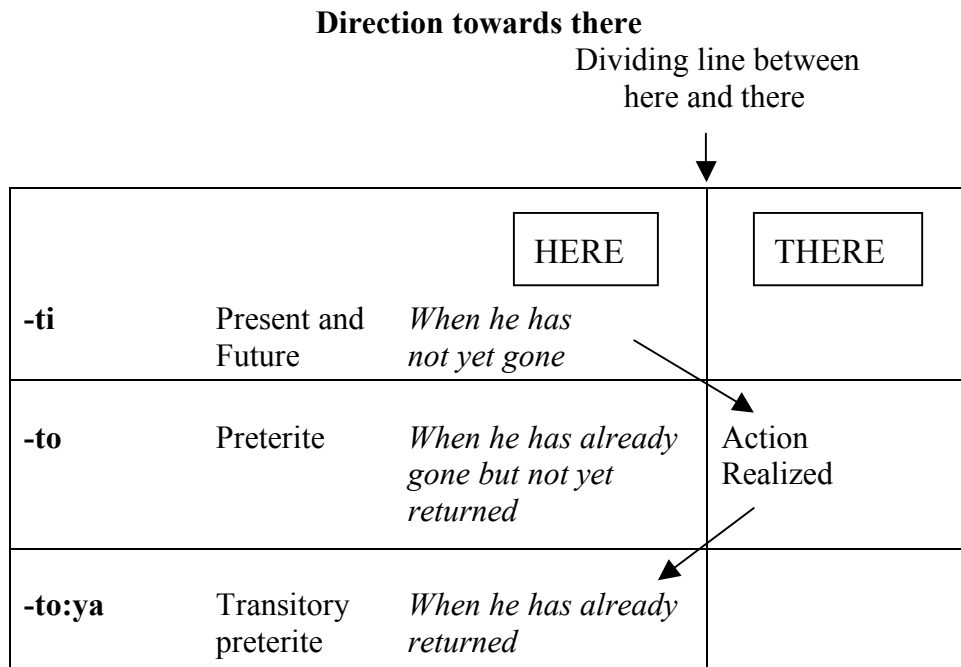
Direction towards here

Dividing line between
here and there

			THERE	HERE
-ki	Present and Future	*When he has not yet come*		
-ko	Preterite	*When he has already arrived but not yet returned*	Action Realized	
-ko:ya	Transitory preterite	*When he has already gone*		

Here is a complete list of the endings that are used in the directional tenses, together with the thematic vowel for each conjugation.

Singular

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Direction towards there					
Present-fut.	-ati	-iti	-i:ti	-o:ti	-a:ti
Preterite	-ato	-ito	-i:to	-o:to	-a:to
Trans. Pret.	-ato:ya	-ito:ya	-i:to:ya	-o:to:ya	-a:to:ya

Plural

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Direction towards here					
Present-fut.	-akih	-ikih	-i:kih	-o:kih	-a:kih
Preterite	-akoh	-ikoh	-i:koh	-o:koh	-a:koh
Trans. Pret.	-ako:yah	-iko:yah	-i:ko:yah	-o:ko:yah	-a:ko:yah

12. The Moods of the Verb

In the conjugation of the verb, there are certain variations that indicate whether the signification of the verb is expressed as a simple fact or is considered in a different manner, for instance, as an order. In Nahuatl, the verbs not only belong to one of the five conjugations, but each form can also be classified according to the mood in which it is found. There are three moods: indicative, imperative-subjunctive, and desiderative.

12.1 The Indicative Mood

The verbs that have been presented in the preceding pages are in the indicative mood, as in the following expressions:

Kičihkeh ikalmeh.	*They built their houses.*
Akipiá tomi:n	*He has no money.*
Te:no:tˢakoh seh.	*They came to call us again.*

In these expressions, the verbal idea is expressed as a fact or the negation of a fact, and in this way we say that they belong to the indicative mood.

12.2 The Imperative-Subjunctive Mood

In the following expressions, the forms of the verb express a command, advice, request or authorization. They are in the imperative mood.

Ximota:li!	*Sit (sg.)!*
Ximotalo!	*Run (sg.)!*
Xine:pale:wi!	*Help (sg.) me!*
Mania:ka:n!	*Let's (excl.) go!*
Matia:ka:n!	*Let's (incl.) go!*
Xah!	*Go (sg.)!*

Ómpaya   maka:wi.
[*There-now let-him-wait*]
Let him wait there now.

Atakaki   ni   que[1]   xikihli   buen razón.
[*not-he-pays-attention nor   that   you-tell-him   good reason*]
He pays no attention even though you are giving him good reasoning.

---

[1] [*Ni que*: borrowed Spanish conjunction. —CSM]

Xik^wi:ga   mo:sta   noburro   iga   xisakatekiti.
[*Take-him tomorrow   my-donkey   that   you-should-go-to-cut-hay.*]
Take my donkey tomorrow so that you can go cut hay.

The prefixes of the imperative-subjunctive are:

ma-   first and third person (placed in front of the person prefix)
xi- or **x-** second person (replaces the personal prefix[1])

In all the conjugations, unless the verb appears with a directional suffix, the singular forms in the imperative-subjunctive end with the thematic vowel, and the suffix **-ka:n** is added to the plural. Examples:

12.2.1 The Imperative-Subjunctive Mood: First Conjugation

-ita *to see*, **kita** *he sees him/her/it*

manikita	*may I see it*
xikita	*see (sg.) it, may you see it*
makita	*may he see it*
manikitaka:n	*may we (excl.) see it*
matikitaka:n	*may we (incl.) see it*
xikitaka:n	*see (pl.) it, may you see it*
makitaka:n	*may they see it*

12.2.2 The Imperative-Subjunctive Mood: Second Conjugation

-k^wi *to seize*, **kik^wi** *he seizes it*

manik^wi[2]	*may I seize it*
xik^wi	*seize (sg.) him, may you seize it*
makik^wi	*may he seize it*
manik^wika:n	*may we (excl.) seize it*
matik^wika:n	*may we (incl.) seize it*
xik^wika:n	*seize (pl.) it, may you seize it*
makik^wika:n	*may they seize it*

---

[1] [Actually, **x(i)-** is an alternative form of the second person singular subject prefix that is used only in the imperative-subjunctive mood. —CSM]

[2] [In the conjugation of a stem beginning with **k-**, when the object prefix **-k-** appears after a subject prefix ending in a vowel (i.e., all persons apart from the third), the resulting double **-kk-** is simplified to a single **k** (i.e., the object prefix is omitted). —CSM]

12.2.3 The Imperative-Subjunctive Mood: Third Conjugation

-ta:li *to set down,* **mota:li** *he sits down (lit. sets himself down)*

manimota:li	*may I sit down*
ximota:li	*sit (sg.) down, may you sit down*
mamota:li	*may he sit down*
manimota:li:ka:n	*may we (excl.) sit down*
matimota:li:ka:n	*may we (incl.) sit down*
ximota:li:ka:n	*sit (pl.) down, may you sit down*
mamota:li:ka:n	*may they sit down*

12.2.4 The Imperative-Subjunctive Mood: Fourth Conjugation

-temo *to lower,* **temowa** *he descends*

manitemo	*may I descend*
xitemo	*descend (sg.), may you descend*
matemo	*may he descend*
manitemo:ka:n	*may we (excl.) descend*
matitemo:ka:n	*may we (incl.) descend*
xitemo:ka:n	*descend (pl.), may you descend*
matemo:ka:n	*may they descend*

12.2.5 The Imperative-Subjunctive Mood: Fifth Conjugation

-kʷa *to eat,* **takʷa** *he eats*

manitakʷa	*may I eat*
xitakʷa	*eat (sg.), may you eat*
matakʷa	*may he eat*
manitakʷa:ka:n	*may we (excl.) eat*
matitakʷa:ka:n	*may we (incl.) eat*
xitakʷa:ka:n	*eat (pl.), may you eat*
matakʷa:ka:n	*may they eat*

The verb in the imperative-subjunctive mood can take endings of the present directional. In the plural, the directional endings **-tih** and **-kih** replace the ending **-ka:n**. Examples:

manikitati	*may I go to see it*
xikitati	*go (sg.) to see it, may you go to see it*
makitati	*may he go to see it*
manikitatih	*may we (excl.) go to see it*
matikitatih	*may we (incl.) go to see it*
xikitatih	*go (pl.) to see it*
makitatih	*may they go to see it*

manikitaki	*may I come to see it*
xikitaki	*come (sg.) to see it, may you come to see it*
makitaki	*may he come to see it*

manikitakih	*may we (excl.) come to see it*
matikitakih	*may we (incl.) come to see it*
xikitakih	*come (pl.) to see it, may you come to see it*
makitakih	*may they come to see it*

12.3 The Desiderative Mood

In the following expressions, the idea is that the person wishes to do what is signified by the root of the verb. Examples:

Kiči:hnekih ikalmeh	*They want to build their houses.*
Kipiasnegiʔ tomi:n	*He wanted to have money.*
Te:no:tˢasnekiáh	*They wanted to call us.*

Verbs in the desiderative mood consist of the future form of the singular of whatever verbal root plus **-neki** *to want*. The temporal endings of the second conjugation are used. The examples here appear in the third person to simplify the presentation.

12.3.1 The Desiderative Mood with a Verbal Root of the First Conjugation

-ita- *to see*

Singular

Present	kitasneki	*he wants to see it*
Future	kitasnekis	*he will want to see it*
Imperfect	kitasnekia:ya	*he would want to see it*
Preterite	kitasnegiʔ	*he wanted to see it*
Trans. Pret.	kitasnekika	*he had wanted to see it*

Plural

Present	kitasnekih	*they want to see it*
Future	kitasnekiskeh	*they will want to see it*
Imperfect	kitasnekia:yah	*they would want to see it*
Preterite	kitasnekikeh	*they wanted to see it*
Trans. Pret.	kitasnekikah	*they had wanted to see it*

12.3.2 The Desiderative Mood with a Verbal Root of the Second Conjugation

-mati- *to know*

Singular

Present	kimatisneki	*he wants to know it*
Future	kimatisnekis	*he will want to know it*
Imperfect	kimatisnekia:ya	*he would want to know it*

Preterite	kimatisnegiʔ	*he wanted to know it*
Trans. Pret.	kimatisnekika	*he had wanted to know it*
	Plural	
Present	kimatisnekih	*they want to know it*
Future	kimatisnekiskeh	*they will want to know it*
Imperfect	kimatisnekia:yah	*they would want to know it*
Preterite	kimatisnekikeh	*they wanted to know it*
Trans. Pret.	kimatisnekikah	*they had wanted to know it*

12.3.3 The Desiderative Mood with a Verbal Root of the Third Conjugation

-ilpi- *to bind*

	Singular	
Present	kilpi:hneki	*he wants to bind it*
Future	kilpi:hnekis	*he will want to bind it*
Imperfect	kilpi:hnekia:ya	*he would want to bind it*
Preterite	kilpi:hnegiʔ	*he wanted to bind it*
Trans. Pret.	kilpi:hnekika	*he had wanted to bind it*
	Plural	
Present	kilpi:hnekih	*they want to bind it*
Future	kilpi:hnekiskeh	*they will want to bind it*
Imperfect	kilpi:hnekia:yah	*they would want to bind it*
Preterite	kilpi:hnekikeh	*they wanted to bind it*
Trans. Pret.	kilpi:hnekikah	*they had wanted to bind it*

12.3.4 The Desiderative Mood with a Verbal Root of the Fourth Conjugation

-ahto- *to speak*

	Singular	
Present	tato:hneki	*he wants to speak*
Future	tato:hnekis	*he will want to speak*
Imperfect	tato:hnekia:ya	*he would want to speak*
Preterite	tato:hnegiʔ	*he wanted to speak*
Trans. Pret.	tato:hnekika	*he had wanted to speak*
	Plural	
Present	tato:hnekih	*they want to speak*
Future	tato:hnekiskeh	*they will want to speak*
Imperfect	tato:hnekia:yah	*they would want to speak*
Preterite	tato:hnekikeh	*they wanted to speak*
Trans. Pret.	tato:hnekikah	*they had wanted to speak*

12.3.5 The Desiderative Mood with a Verbal Root of the Fifth Conjugation

   -kʷa- *to eat*

Singular

Present	takʷa:hneki	*he wants to eat*
Future	takʷa:hnekis	*he will want to eat*
Imperfect	takʷa:hnekia:ya	*he would want to eat*
Preterite	takʷa:hnegiʔ	*he wanted to eat*
Trans. Pret.	takʷa:hnekika	*he had wanted to eat*

Plural

Present	takʷa:hnekih	*they want to eat*
Future	takʷa:hnekiskeh	*they will want to eat*
Imperfect	takʷa:hnekia:yah	*they would want to eat*
Preterite	takʷa:hnekikeh	*they wanted to eat*
Trans. Pret.	takʷa:hnekikah	*they had wanted to eat*

12.3.6 Figurative Use of the Desiderative Mood
The desiderative mood is also used in the sense of the imminent future, expressing what to all appearances is likely to happen. Examples:

Wi:ʔneki	tiawa:ʔ	Wetˢisneki	nokal
[*it-wants-to-come rain*]		[*it-wants-to-fall my-house*]	
It's about to rain.		*My house is about to fall down.*	

12.3.7 Interpretation of the Endings *-skia:ya* and *-skiá*
There are verbal endings, **-skia:ya** and **-skiá**, which have been interpreted as belonging to a postpreterite tense. I allow myself the liberty of proposing that these endings are a variety of the desiderative mood. According to my analysis of their meaning and of the rules of apocope that are manifested in the Nahuatl speech of Mecayapan and Tatahuicapan, the verbs that take these endings have to be considered as apocopated and contracted forms of the imperfect tense of the desiderative.[1] The following table shows the relationship between them. Note that the **h** that is placed in front of the **n** in examples 3-5 turns into **s** in front of **k**.

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[1] Although the verbs in the desiderative mood could be considered as special forms in the indicative mood, I have assigned them to their own mood because they are differentiated from the other types of complex verbs in two of their characteristics: 1) they include a unique mechanism of derivation on the basis of the future tense, and 2) they lack imperative-subjunctive forms.

Complete forms	Apocopated forms	Contracted apocopated forms	Meaning
1. kitasnekia:ya	kitaskia:ya	kitaskiá	*he wanted to see him*
2. kimatisnekia:ya	kimatiskia:ya	kimatiskiá	*he wanted to know it*
3. kilpi:hnekia:ya	kilpi:skia:ya	kilpi:skiá	*he wanted to bind him*
4. tahto:hnekia:ya	tahto:skia:ya	tahto:skiá	*he wanted to speak*
5. tak^wa:hnekia:ya	tak^wa:skia:ya	tak^wa:skiá	*he wanted to eat*

13. The Aspects of the Verb

The aspect of the verb indicates the manner in which the action is brought to an end, whether this action takes place suddenly, is now in progress, or is related to some other action. In English, such aspects are mostly expressed by means of compound expressions of two or more words. In Nahuatl, the aspects are expressed not only with phrases of two or more independent words but also with a compound verb consisting of two or more verbal roots.

13.1 Aspects Consisting of Complex Verbs
Complex aspectual verbs contain a nuclear root plus an aspectual root. In most cases, the nuclear root takes the form of the preterite of the plural without the ending **-keh** followed by **-t** or **-ti** plus some aspectual verbal root.[1] The aspectual root consists of a variant of an independent verb, and this takes the endings of tense and number. Examples:

    isatoʔ *he is awoken* (stative aspect)
        [**isa** *to awaken*; **-oʔ** variant of **–onoʔ** *to be*[2]]

    kiːstiawih *they go emerging* (progressive aspect)
        [k**iːs** *dep. root of* **kiːsa** *to emerge*; **-iawi** variant of **–yawi** *to go*]

    asitiwiːʔ *he comes arriving* (progressive aspect of approach)
        [**asi** *to arrive*; **-wiːʔ** *to come*]

  Other aspects without classification:

    taːtahtohtinemi *he walks speaking*
        [**taː-** reduplicated syllable; **tahtoh-** form of the dep. root of **tahtowa** *to speak*; **nemi** *to walk*]

    ilpitikaːwiʔ *he stayed bound*
        [**-ilpi-** dep. root of **kilpiá** *to bind*; **kaːwi** *to remain*]

---

[1] [The statement that the verbal nucleus consists of the preterite plural minus the ending **-keh** is really just a mechanical way of indicating that it is simply the preterite stem (which sometimes undergoes phonetic change at the end and is regularly preserved in its original form in front of the plural marker. —CSM]

[2] [Etymologically, this verb (see Section 18.3.3) means *to lie*. In historical terms, the verb is a monosyllable, and Classical Nahuatl has a tendency to add the directional prefix **on-** to short verbs like this to give them greater substance. —CSM]

kilpitikahkeh *they left him bound*
>[**ki-** *him*; **-ilpi-** dep. root of **kilpiá** *to bind*; **-kahkeh** *they left*]

ne:tači:lihtiki:saʔ *they began to look at me*
>[**ne:-** *me*; **-tači:liá** *to look at*; **ki:sa** *to emerge*]

motalohtasiʔ *he arrived running*
>[**motalo-** verbal root of **motalowa** *to run*; **asi** *to arrive*]

The compounds in **-te:wa** are translated in various senses (**-te:wa** does not appear as an independent form[1]).

čolohte:waʔ *he fled suddenly*
>[**čolo-** dep. root of **čolowa** *to flee*]

mitˢitˢte:waʔ *he saw you while passing by*
>[**mitˢ-** *you*; **-itˢ-** variant of the verbal root **-ita-** *to see*]

takʷahte:waʔ *he ate and left*
>[**takʷa-** *to eat*]

The preceding examples have been selected with an eye towards representing the variety of compounds that are formed in this way. Next, three of the aspectual forms used more frequently will be given in a more detailed presentation, since they bear irregular endings.

13.1.1 The Stative Aspect
The stative aspect is one of the aspects relating to continued action. Its meaning is to present the action as a situation or as a state in which the subject finds itself. The preterite is used as the present.

Nitakʷahtoʔ.	*I am eating.*	(My situation is *to be eating.*)
Nitačpa:ntoʔ.	*I am sweeping.*	(My situation is *to be sweeping.*)
Nikitˢtoʔ.	*I am seeing him.*	(My situation is *to be seeing him.*)

The preceding words have an active sense, and are translated with the word *be* plus the present participle. They indicate that the subject is engaged in putting the action into effect.

It is necessary to distinguish another meaning that a verb in the stative aspect can have. This is the passive sense, when it signifies that the subject is in the state that results from the action or from the vebal idea. If the verb is transitive, this form is generally translated

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[1] [The verb **e:wa** *to depart* is well attested in Classical Nahuatl. —CSM]

in English with the verb *to be* plus the past participle.[1] If the verb is intransitive, it may also appear in this form in English, although sometimes it is more idiomatic to translate it with the perfect tense. Note the following examples:

Nikʷesitoʔ.	*I'm annoyed*
Niwetˢtoʔ.	*I'm lying (i.e., recumbent, on my side).*
Nisiatoʔ.	*I'm tired.*

Here are some examples of the conjugation of the third person of the verb **wetˢi-** in the stative aspect of the indicative mood. Note that while in the other forms, this verb signifies to 'fall', that is, move from a vertical to a horizontal position, in the stative it signifies the result of this action, that is to 'be lying (down)', for rest or sleep. Verbs in the stative aspect conjugate like the irregular verb **ono** *to be*.

wetsi- to fall

Indicative mood:

Singular

Tense

Indeterminate	wetˢto	*to be lying*
Preterite as present	wetˢtoʔ	*he is lying*
Future	wetˢtos	*he will be lying*
Imperfect	wetˢtoya	*he used to be lying*

With direction towards there:

Present and Future	wetˢtoti	*he goes* or *will go to be lying*
Preterite	wetˢtoto	*he went to be lying*
Transitory Pret.	wetˢtoto:ya	*he went and was lying for a while*

With direction towards here:

Present and Future	wetˢtoki	*he comes to be lying*
Preterite	wetˢtoko	*he came to be lying*
Transitory Pret.	wetˢtoco:ya	*he came and was lying for a while*

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[1] [In English, one must clearly distinguish between the use of the adjectival past participle with the verb *to be,* which indicates a state, on the one hand and the formally indistinguishable use of the past participle with the verb *to be* as the periphrastic passive on the other: i.e., *the door is open* meaning "it was opened up by someone in the past and is now standing open" vs. *the door is opened when necessary* meaning "it normally remains closed and it is opened up by someone when entry is required." The first sentence refers to the passive state, the second to the periphrastic passive (i.e, it signifies the performance of the action rather than its result). —CSM]

Plural

Tense

Indeterminate	wetˢtoh	*to be lying*
Preterite as present	wetˢtokeh	*they are lying*
Future	wetˢtoskeh	*they will be lying*
Imperfect	wetˢtoyah	*they used to be lying*

With direction towards there:

Present and Future	wetˢtotih	*they go* or *will go to be lying*
Preterite	wetˢtotoh	*they went to be lying*
Transitory Pret.	wetˢtoto:yah	*they went and were lying for a while*

With direction towards here:

Present and Future	wetˢtokih	*they come to be lying*
Preterite	wetˢtokoh	*they came to be lying*
Transitory Pret.	wetˢtoko:yah	*they came and were lying for a time*

Next, examples are presented of the conjugation of the same stative verb in the imperative-subjunctive mood:

Imperative-subjunctive mood:

mawetˢto	*may he be lying*
xiwetˢto	*may you (sg.) be lying*
mawetˢtoka:n	*may they be lying*
xiwetˢtoka:n	*may you (pl.) be lying*

With direction towards there:

mawetˢtoti	*may he go to be lying*
xiwetˢtoti	*may you (sg.) go to be lying*
mawetˢtotih	*may they go to be lying*
xiwetˢtotih	*may you (pl.) go to be lying*

With direction towards here:

mawetˢtoki	*may he come to be lying*
xiwetˢtoki	*may you (sg.) come to be lying*
mawetˢtokih	*may they come to be lying*
xiwetˢtokih	*may you (pl.)come to be lying*

13.1.2 The Progressive Aspect

The progressive aspect gives the idea that the action is effected progressively, as an ongoing process, a series of actions, or an action that takes place when the subject is headed in some direction. It is translated with the verb *to go* plus the present participle or, in certain cases, the past participles. Examples:

Subject in motion:

Kitapohtiawih ohti.	*They go clearing the way.*

Kʷesitiá.	*He goes annoyed.*
Čipi:ntiá.	*He goes dripping.*
Isi:ktiá.	*He goes panting/wheezing.*

Ongoing process

Mo-ihkititiá čikiwiʔ.	*He goes (on) weaving the basket.*
Kihkʷilohtiá icarta.	*He goes (on) writing his letter.*
Kitehte:ntektiá a:maʔ.	*He goes (on) clipping the edge of the paper.*

Verbs in the progressive aspect are compound words, and their last element is the irregular verb **-ia-** *to go*. They are conjugated with the regular endings of this root (see Section 18.3.1).

Singular

Present	takʷi:ktiá	*he goes (on) singing*
Future	takʷi:ktia:h	*he will go (on) singing*
Imperfect	takʷi:ktia:ya	*he would go (on) singing*
Preterite	takʷi:ktiahki	*he went (on) singing*
Transitory Pret.	takʷi:ktiahka	*he had gone (on) singing*

Plural

Present	takʷi:ktiawih	*they go (on) singing*
Future	takʷi:ktia:skeh	*they will go (on) singing*
Imperfect	takʷi:ktia:yah	*they would go (on) singing*
Preterite	takʷi:ktiahkih	*they went (on) singing*
Transitory Pret.	takʷi:ktiahkah	*they had gone (on) singing*

13.1.3 The Progressive Aspect of Approach

The progressive aspect of approach is normally used to specify that the verbal idea is put into effect when the subject advances towards here. In certain contexts, the sense refers to the advance of time towards the present moment.

The subject in motion towards here:

Kwesitiwi:ʔ.	*He comes annoyed.*
Čipi:ntiwi:ʔ.	*He comes dripping.*
Isi:ktiwi:ʔ.	*He comes panting/wheezing.*

The process ongoing towards the present moment:

Kičihtiwi:ʔ   kahli.
[*he-comes-making-it   house*]
He comes making houses (has been doing so for a while).

Iná:n nikita   que takomeh mona:miktihtiwi:tˢeh de doce añtos.
[*now I-see-it that girls   they-come-marrying at twelve years.*]
I see now that the girls are getting married at the age of twelve.

Verbs in the progressive aspect of approach are composed of two or more verbal roots, the last of which is the irregular verb **-wi:ʔ** *to come* and conjugates in the manner appropriate to that verb (see Section 18.3.2).

	Singular	
Present or Future	takʷi:ktiwi:ʔ	*he comes singing*
Imperfect	takʷi:ktiwi:tˢia:ya	*he would come singing*
Preterite	takʷi:ktiwa:lah	*he came singing*
Transitory Pret.	takʷi:ktiwa:lka	*he had come singing*

	Plural	
Present or Future	takʷi:ktiwi:tˢeh	*they come singing*
Imperfect	takʷi:ktiwi:tˢia:yah	*they would come singing*
Preterite	takʷi:ktiwa:lkeh	*they came singing*
Transitory Pret.	takʷi:ktiwa:lkah	*they had come singing*

13.2 Aspects with Independent Particles

13.2.1 The Particles *nemi* Used as Auxiliary Verb

Verbal constructions with the auxiliary particle **nemi** signify an action in progress in the present moment or at the same time as another action takes place. The auxiliary does not change while the principal verb takes the markers of person, tense and number. Examples:

nemi nitakʷa	*I am eating*
nemi titakʷa	*you (sg.) are eating*
nemi takʷa	*he is eating*
nemi nitakʷah	*we (excl.) are eating*
nemi titakʷah	*we (incl.) are eating*
nemi antakʷah	*you (pl.) are eating*
nemi takʷah	*they are eating*

It is also used in the imperfect.

nemi nitakʷa:ya	*I was eating*
nemi titakʷa:ya	*you (sg.) were eating*

In this sort of construction, the present or the imperfect can be used to refer to continuous actions that are correlated with other past acts. Example:

Yehame:n tikitakeh   ka:n   nemi   tekipanowah.
[*them   we-saw-them where in-progress they-work*]
                                        or
Yehame:n tikitakeh   ka:n   nemi   tekipanowa:yah.
[*them   we-saw-them where in-progress they-were-working*]
Them we saw when they were working.

The constructions with **nemi** can have the meaning of the present or progressive perfect in English. Examples:

> Anemi   nikita.
> [*no-in-progress I-se-it*]
> *I haven't seen it.*

> Yawi:pta   némiya   tata   a:ka:walyoh.
> [*for-days-now now-in-progress burns abandoned-land*]
> *For days now the abandoned field has already been burning.*

Note that the ending **-ya** on **nemi** corresponds to the temporal **ya** and not to the suffix **-aya** of the imperfect.

13.2.2 The Auxiliary Particle *wel*

The particle **wel** *can* and the negative form **awel** *can't* are used as auxiliaries with conjugated verbs. The auxiliary does not change, while the principle verb takes the markers of person, tense and number.

The following example consists of the auxiliary with the verb **-či:wa** *to do/make*.

> wel nikči:wa   *I can do it*
> wel tikči:wa   *you (sg.) can do it*
> wel kiči:wa   *he can do it*
>
> wel nikči:wah   *we (excl.) can do it*
> wel tikči:wah   *we (incl.) can do it*
> wel ankiči:wah   *you (pl.) can do it*
> wel kiči:wah   *they can do it*

It also appears in other tenses.

> wel nikči:was   *I will be able to do it*
> wel nikči:waya   *I could do it*
> wel nikčih   *I was able to do it*
> wel nikčihka   *I could have done it*

14. Applicative and Causative Verbs

14.1 Applicative Forms of the Verb

Applicative verbs are those that bear an ending formed with the applicative morpheme **-li-**, which indicates that the object prefix refers to a non-direct object to which the action of the verb is applied. When the primary meaning of the verb is transitive, the direct object is taken for granted, even though it is not marked within the verb, since the verb never bears two object prefixes.[1]

Applicative verbs take endings of the third conjugation.

	Singular	**Plural**
Present	-liá	-liáh
Future	-li:h	-li:skeh
Imperfect	-lia:ya	-lia:yah
Preterite	-lih	-lihkeh
Transitory Pret.	-lihka	-lihkah

14.1.1 Rules for Forming Applicative Verbs

Roots of the first conjugation. To form the applicative verb, the thematic vowel changes to **i**, and **-li-** is added to this. Examples:

ne:pa:kiliá	*he washes it for me*	[kipa:ka *he washes it*]
ne:kowiliá	*he buys it for me*	[kikowa *he buys it*]
ne:patiliá	*he changes it for me*	[kipata *he changes it*]
ne-e:niliá	*he guards it for me*	[ke:na *he guards it*]

Exceptions: The thematic vowel does not change in the following verbs:

ne-italiá	*he sees it for me*	[kita *he see it*]
ne:pialiá	*he holds it for me*	[kipiá *he holds it*]

Roots of the second conjugation. To form the applicative verb, **-li-** is added to the thematic vowel. Examples:

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[1] [That is, a verb can take only one object, and if the verb has the applicative ending, the object prefix is governed by that ending and the object of the verb itself is omitted as something that can be understood. —CSM]

ne:tisiliá	*he grinds it for me*	[kitisi *he grinds it*]
ne:mahmawiliá	*he's afraid of me*	[mahmawi *he has fear*]
ne:tayiliá	*he weeds it for me*	[kitayi *he weeds it*]
ne:tekiliá	*he cuts it for me*	[kiteki *he cuts it*]

Roots of the third conjugation. To form the applicative verb, **-li-** is added to the thematic vowel, with the **-a** of the present tense dropped. Examples:

ne:ta:liliá	*he places it for me*	[kita:liá *he places it*]
ne:te:miliá	*he fills it for me*	[kite:miá *he fills it*]
ne:ki:tˢkiliá	*he seizes it for me*	[kiki:tˢkiá *he seizes it*]
ne-ilpiliá	*he binds it for me*	[kilpiá *he binds it*]

Roots of the fourth conjugation. To form the applicative verb, **-wa** changes into **-wi**, and **-li-** is added to this. Examples:

ne:tahtowiliá	*he speaks on my behalf*	[tahtowa *he speaks*]
ne:pačowiliá	*he calms him for me*	[kipačowa *he calms him*]
ne:kimilowiliá	*he wraps it up for me*	[kikimilowa *he wraps it up*]
ne:tapowiliá	*he opens it for me*	[kitapowa *he opens it*]

Roots of the fifth conjugation. To form the applicative verb, **-li-** is added to the thematic vowel, which is lengthened. Example:

| ne:kʷa:liá | *he eats my portion* | [kikʷa *he eats it*] |

14.1.2 Changes in the Root of Applicative Verbs

Some verbs undergo changes in their root, whether the dropping of a syllable, the lengthenting of a vowel, or both. In one example, **s** turns into **x**. Examples:

ne:kʷi:liá	*he takes it from me*	[kikʷi *he takes it*]
ne-ihliá	*he tells it to me*	[kihtowa *he says it*]
ne:temo:liá	*he lowers it for me*	[kitemowiá *he lowers it*]
ne:tači:liá	*he looks towards me*	[tačá *he looks*]
neaxiliá	*he reaches me*	[asi *he arrives*]

14.2 Causative Forms of the Verb

When added to a verbal root, the causative ending **-tiá** or **-ltiá** (third conjugation) turns the root into a causative verb. The character of these verbs is always transitive, and it signifies that the subject of the verb causes or instigates the object to do what is indicated by the original verb. Note that in some cases there is a change in the root of the causative form compared to the original (including the dropping or lengthening of the thematic vowel). Examples:

nimitˢmačtiá	*I instruct you*	[tikmati *you know it*]
mitˢkʷaltiá	*he gives you somethng to eat*	[tikʷa *you eat it*]
kikočtiá	*he puts him to sleep*	[koči *he sleeps*]

ne:ki:xtiá	*he takes me out*	[niki:sa *I emerge*]
kiweyaltiá	*he makes it grow*	[weyá *it grows*]
kičolo:ltiá	*he puts him to flight*	[čolowa *he flees*]
kimiktiá	*he kills him*	[miki *he dies*]

The tense endings of the causative verbs are those of the third conjugation. Examples:

Singular

Present	nimitˢmačtiá	*I instruct you (sg.)*
Future	nimitˢmačti:h	*I will instruct you (sg.)*
Imperfect	nimitˢmačtia:ya	*I used to instruct you (sg.)*
Preterite	nimitˢmačtih	*I instructed you (sg.)*
Trans. Pret.	nimitˢmačtihka	*I had instructed you (sg.)*
Subjunctive Mood	manimitˢmačti	*may I instruct you (sg.)*

Plural

Present	nimitˢmačtiáh	*we instruct you (sg. or pl.)*
Future	nimitˢmačti:skeh	*we will instruct you (sg. or pl.)*
Imperfect	nimitˢmačtia:yah	*we used to instruct you (sg. or pl.)*
Preterite	nimitˢmačtihkeh	*we instructed you (sg. or pl.)*
Trans. Pret.	nimitˢmačtihkah	*we had instructed you (sg. or pl.)*
Subjunctive Mood	manimitˢmačti:ka:n	*may we instruct you (sg. or pl.)*

14.3 Order of the Verbal Endings

Here is a table that shows and illustrates the order in which the causative, applicative, aspectual and temporal endings are added to a verbal root in the indicative mood. In the fourth column a basic temporal ending or a directional one can appear. The following examples show the present-future directional away from the speaker for the verb **tisi** *to grind*.

		Order of the endings				
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
Object	*Root + thematic vowel*	*Causative*	*Applicative*	*Aspectual*	*Temporal*	
	tisi-				-iti	A
ki-	-tisi-		-l-		-i:ti	B
ki-	-tisi-	-lt-			-i:ti	C
ki-	-tisi-	-lti-	-l-		-i:ti	D
	tisi-			-tinem-	-iti	E

ki-	-tisi-	-ltih-		-tinem-	-iti	F
ki-	-tisi-		-lih-	-tinem-	-iti	G
ki-	-tisi-	-lti-	-lih-	-tinem-	-iti	H

A tisiti   *He is going to grind*
B kitisili:ti   *He is going to grind it for him*
C kitisilti:ti   *He is going to make him grind*
D kitisiltili:ti   *He is going to make him grind it for him (someone else)*
E tisitinemiti   *He is going to go (around) grinding*
F kitisiltihtinemiti   *He is going to go (around) making him grind*
G kitisilihtinemiti   *He is going to go (around) grinding it for him (someone else)*
H kitisiltilihtinemiti   *He is going to go (around) making him grind it for him*

15. Particles of Conjunction

15.1 Nahuatl Conjunctions
Conjunctions are particles or compounds that serve to connect clauses and other elements of the sentence.

iwá:n *and*

> Onoʔ dia:lmah sa:yo:lin iwá:n mo:yo:ʔ.
> [*there-are many flies and mosquitos*]
> There are many flies and mosquitos

> Nigah qui:squeh, ihuán yahquih Ayipehtzi:n-a:pan.
> [*here they-left and they-went Apechinapa*]
> *They left here and went to Apechinapa.*

iga *that*

> Kitaʔ iga némiya xo:čowa aha:yo:ʔ.
> [*he-saw-it that now-in-progress is flowering the bean(s)*]
> *He saw that the beans were now in flower.*

> Kihtowah iga mihto:tiáh.
> [*they-say-it that they-dance*]
> *They say that they are dancing.*

iga *so that*

> Xikʷihkʷitih kʷahkʷawil iga makʷakʷalaka páyilah.
> [*go (pl.)-bringing-bringing firewood so that it-can-boil pot*]
> *Go bring firewood so that the pot can boil.*

> Nikta:lilihkeh la mesa iga matakʷa:ka:n.
> [*we-set-it-for-them the table so that they-may-eat*]
> *We set the table for them so that they could eat.*

iga *because*

awel　　　kiwi:ga　　　iga　　　eti:ʔ.
[*he-can't he-carries-him because he-is-heavy*]
He can't carry him because he's heavy.

iga *when*

Iga　　　tasikoh,　　　　　　tayówaya.
[*when　they-arrived-here it-was-dark-now*]
When they arrived, it was already night.

ikʷáʔ *when*

Ikʷáʔ　asitih　　　　　a-ihtiʔ　　　mono:tˢah　　　　siwa:tkeh.
[*when　they-arrive-there within-water they-call-themselves women*]
When they arrive at the stream, the women converse.

ma *if*

Ma iga　nikpiaya tomi:n,　　nikowaya.[1]
[*if　that I-had-it　money, I-would-buy-it*]
If I had the money, I would buy it.

maleh *although*

Maleh tiawa:tah,　　　pero tokni:nwa:n yáwihoʔ
[*though it-is-raining　yet our-brothers they-still-go*

tekipano:tih imi:lpameh.
they-go-to-work to-their fields]

Even though it is rainy, our brothers are still going to their fields to work.

no ve:h[2] *because*

Yéh iná:n kahli nemi　　　kite:miá, no ve:h　komati sinti kipiá.
[*he　now　house in-progress he-fills-it because plenty corn he-has-it*]
He is now filling the house because he has plenty of corn.

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[1] [For the apparent absence of the object prefix on the last word, see Section 12.2.2 n. 2. —CSM]

[2] [A Nahuatl version of the Spanish phrase **no ves**. —CSM]

kel *if*

> Kel iga tikta:ni:ki   nigah sinti xikta:ni:ki.
> [*If that you-come-to-earn-it here   corn come-earn-it*]
> *If you're coming here to work for corn, come work for it!*

sil *if* (see Section 15.2 **si**)

> Sil tikwa:h,[1] xikproba:ro.
> [*If you-eat-it try-it*]
> *If you are going to eat it, try it.*

siga[2] *if* (see Section 15.2 **si**)

> Siga ankipolo:skeh,   nih anyawih   anka:witih.
> [*if you (pl.)-will-lose-it here you (pl.)-go you (pl.)-go-to-stay*]
> *If you lose it, you're going to stay here.*

15.2 Borrowed Conjunctions

The following conjunctions taken from Spanish are also used:

y, o, pero, si, que, como, porque, ni

y *and*

> Tami kiči:wiliáh   itak^walmeh,   y   kita:liliaha   mesa.
> [*it-ends they-make-them-it their meal   and they-set-it-for-them   table*]
> *They finish making their meal for them and then they set the table for them.*

o *or*

> Atikmatih   si tasiskeh   o   atasiskeh.
> [*not-we-know-it if we-will-arrive or not-we-will-arrive*]
> *We don't know if we'll get there or not.*

pero *but*

> Iní:n noche yawi   wi:t^seti   la gran eheka? iga   mit^swet^silti:skeh
> [*this night it-goes goes-to-come the big wind   so-that it-will-cause-to-fall-for-you*

---

[1] [For the apparent absence of the object prefix on the last word, see Section 12.2.2 n. 2.
—CSM]
[2] [**Si** plus **iga**. —CSM]

amocal,   pero awet^sis.
your (pl.)-house but not-it-will-fall]

Tonight, the big wind is going to come in order to make your house fall down on you, but it won't fall.

Čokot^si:n iwá:n takot^si:n mi:xna:mikih   iga tak^wah, pero takot^si:n pi:ná:.
[*boy   and   girl   they- face-themselves and they-eat, but girl   is-embarrassed*]

The boy and girl face each other and eat, but the girl is ashamed.

si *if* (see Section 15.1 **sil**, **siga**)

Neh anikmati   si wa:lah.
[*I   not-I-know-it if he-arrived*]
I don't know if he arrived.

Si iga[1] kihli:skeh   iga kena, wel   mona:miktih.
[*if that they-will-tell-him that yes   he-can he-will-get-a-spouse-for-himself*]
If they say yes to him, he can get married.

que *that*

Kihtowa   que yéh akité?.
[*he-says-it that he   not-he-cut-it*]
He says that he didn't cut it.

como *how, since*

Neh nikehe:lkah,   como   ayo? i:? tikonta:rowah.[2]
[*I   I-forgot-forgot-it how   not-now ever we-tell-it*]
I've forgot them since we don't tell them anymore (referring to folkstories).

Pues yéh kicuida:rowa,   como weyi imi:l.
[*then he he-takes-note-of-it how   big   his field*]
He takes care of it since his field is big.

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[1] [This is just an uncontracted version of **siga**. —CSM]
[2] [For the apparent absence of the object prefix on the last word, see Section 12.2.2 n. 2. —CSM]

porque *because*

> Este čičí:lti?ya iyi:x,   porque kahakilihkeh   xa:hli.
> [*even red-now   his-eyes because they-threw-for-him sand*]
> *Now he even has red eyes, because they threw sand at him.*

> Ayo?   xah, porque   nih tak^wá:lo:?ya.
> [*not-now go   because here it-is-meal-now*]
> *Don't go now, because there's food here now.*

ni *nor*

> Yehame:n akikwah   pepet^ska? ni čakalin.
> [*They   not-they-eat-it little-fish nor shrimp*]
> They *don't eat little fish or shrimp.*

15.3 The Particle *in*

The particle **in** is difficult to classify with precision. Its use corresponds in part to that of the definite article and the demonstrative adjective and in part to that of a conjunction. It is placed in front of not only substantives but also verbs and other parts of speech. One of its functions can be to indicate the elements that are more intimately bound to the topic being treated. Perhaps it serves at times simply to make the rhythm of the spoken word more agreeable. The following examples, which are drawn from conversations and recorded stories, are presented so that people of linguistic aptitude can apply their own analysis.

> In amehwa:n, kén ankihliáh   "sandía"?
> [*in you (pl.),   how do-you-say-it "sandía"*]
> *As for you, how do you say "sandía"?*

> Inón,   ix   té   in ito:ka:?   in ta:ga??
> [*that one* interrog.-part. *what in his-name in the man*]
> *That one, what's that man's name?*

> Ix   té ó:ntahki?   in poliwi??
> [*interrog. part. what that*-part. *of emphasis-part. of hearsay in it-got-lost*]
> *What do they say that thing is that got lost?*

> Ikya   kima:wila:ntiá   in čokot^si:n yeh iwé:wehpaya.
> [*in-past he goes-taking-her-by-the-hand* in *boy   who he-is-her-husband-now*]
> *In the past, the boys who is now her husband would lead her by the hand.*

Kel tik^wí:, xik^wí: in ko:ne:ʔ. [1]
[*if you-take-it take (sg.)-it* in *baby*]
If you want to take it, take it to the baby.

Kimaka itaxkal iga tayowaka:n makik^wa in isiwa:ʔ.
[*He-gives-her-it her tortilla(s) so that at-night she-would-eat-it* in *his wife*]
He gave his wife his tortillas, so that she could eat them at night.

Kiká? té in niktahtanilih.
[*he-heard what* in *I-asked-it-of-him*]
He understood what it was that I asked of him.

Yawi:pta anka ayá:ʔ ankifirma:rohkeh in nigah.
[*for-days perhaps not you (pl.)-sign-it* in *here*]
For days now you have perhaps not signed here.

Ómpaya in te:servi:rowa, weh.
[*there-now* in *serve-us little brother*]
That's how it befits us now, little brother

Ayoʔ xah! Ka: makitolo in ma:pačimeh in tomi:l.
[*not-now go allow they-may-finish-it* in *raccoons* in *our field*]
Don't go now! Let the raccoons finish up our field.

A las tres de la mañana kiwi:gakeh in yegin.
[*at three in the morning they-brought-it* in *a while ago*]
A while ago, at about three in the morning, they brought it.

Iná:n in yéh, nemi kisasaka ači nok^wahk^wawilt^si:n.
[*now* in *he in-progress he-carts-it a-little my-little-firewood*]
Now as for him, he is carting a little of my firewood.

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[1] [For the apparent absence of the object prefix on the two verbs, see Section 12.2.2 n. 2. —CSM]

16. The Adverb

The adverb is a part of speech that is used to qualify the signification of a verb or an adjective, and at times that of another adverb. It can be interrogative, demonstrative, qualifying, relative or negative. There exist in Nahuatl a great number of compound words consisting of substantives and locative roots, and these serve as adverbs in the sentence. Some of these take possessive prefixes that serve to localize the action or to denote the relationship between two words.

These are grouped into the categories of adverbs of **place**, **time**, **manner**, **quantity** and **order**, with the corresponding interrogatives: *where, when, how,* and *in which order*. In addition, adverbs of **affirmation**, **negation** and **doubt** are recognized, as well as special adverbs of place (see Section 17.0).

16.1 Adverbs of time
16.1.1 Interrogative:
ké:man?	*when?*

16.1.2 Relatives:
ke:man	*when*
ikʷá:ʔ	*when*
kʷá:ʔ	*when*

16.1.3 Negatives:
nike:man	*never*
ayí:ʔ	*never*

16.1.4 Indefinite:
ke:man	*at some time, ever*

16.1.5 Other adverbs of time:
ikʷa:ʔ	*then*
a:man	*today*
á:mansan	*at this very moment*
ina:man	*now*
iná:n	*now*
a:n	*now*
naman	*soon*

seh[1]	*again*
kehké:mansan	*from time to time*
ya:lwa	*yesterday*
mo:sta	*tomorrow*
wi:pta	*in a few days*
yawi:pta	*a few days ago*
i:kí:n	*a while ago*
ikya	*a long time ago*
ikyo:ʔ *or* íkyaoʔ	*far in the future*
ye:wa	*a few hours ago*
yegin	*earlier today*
yegimpa	*recently*
sémiya	*right now*
nóktaya	*in a moment*
nokto:ʔ *or* nóktaoʔ	*a moment ago*
nočipa	*all the time*
ya se: xiwiʔ	*a year ago*
este se: xiwiʔ	*next year*
isahpa	*early*
tio:taʔ	*late in the day*
diso:rah[2]	*very late*
tayowa	*late (at nightfall)*
yowa:n	*last night*
yowa:mpa	*in the night*
senyowal	*all night*
semilwiʔ	*all day*

16.2 Adverbs of Manner
16.2.1 Interrogative:
kenʔ	*how?*

16.2.2 Relative:
ken	*as*

16.2.3 Indefinite:
nikén	*so-so*

---

[1] **seh** is used not only to say *again* but also to indicate in the discourse a change in emphasis that needs to stand out, whether this is a new subject or a verb that introduces a problematical or unexpected idea. Examples:

Neh   seh   manikʷiga momórral.   Pero seh   anikʷahli:ʔ tomi:n.
[*I* new-subject *may-I-take your-bag.*   *but* problem *not-I-have money*]
Now it's my turn to take your bag.   *But the thing is, I have no money.*
[2] From the Spanish **deshora** *inopportunely*.

16.2.4 Demonstrative:

ihkí:n	*thus, in this manner*
ihkó:n	*thus, in that manner*

16.2.5 Qualifying:

yo:li?	*slowly*
isah	*quickly*
imaní:n	*quickly, swiftly*
nokta	*absolutely*

16.3 Quantifying Adverbs

ači	*somewhat*
poxsan	*a lot, much*
néma:nsan	*not so much, moderate*
dia:lmah[1]	*excessively*

16.4 Adverbs of Order

ačto	*before, first*
último	*last*
después	*afterwards*

16.5 Adverbs of Doubt

anka	*perhaps, maybe*
a:n	*perhaps, maybe*
ix	*possibly*
ixki?	*possibly*

16.6 Adverbs of Affirmation

kena	*yes*
kentah	*yes*
he:	*yes*
melá?	*certainly*
no:	*also*
no:san	*also*
noči	*also*

There are also adverbial methods of affirmation like the following:

aya:?tah	*yes*
amela:?tah	*certainly*
yeh iga	*certainly*
ísahawa?	*yes (woman speaking)*
he:keh	*yes (woman speaking)*

---

[1] From the Spanish **del alma** *of the soul*.

16.7 Adverbs of Negation

a-   *prefix of negation*

    ni   agah   atahtoh.
    [*nor someone   not-spoke*]
    No one spoke.

ayá? *not (indicative)*

    ni   agah   ayá? tahtoh.
    [*nor someone   not   he-spoke*]
    No one spoke.

amo *not (imperative and subjunctive)*

    Amo ximomahti.
    [*not   be-scared*]
    Don't be scared.

    Amo tiksosolo:h.
    [*not   you-will-break-it*]
    Don't go and break it.

    Ximota:li nigah. Amo to:naya:n.
    [*sit   here   not   in-the-sun*]
    Sit here, not in the sunshine.

    Nikye:kta:lih iga   amo makalaki   kiawa:?.
    [*I-fixed-it   so-that not   it-may-enter rain*]
    I fixed it so that the rain wouldn't enter.

aya *not yet*

    Aya   mona:miktiá.
    [*not-yet he-gets-married*]
    He hasn't gotten married yet.

    Antes   iga aya   tane:si,   teh   némiya   titačpa:na.
    [*before that not-yet dawn-arrived you (sg.) now-in-progress you (sg.)-*
      sweep]
    Before the crack of dawn, you are already sweeping.

The use of **ayo?** encompasses two senses: 1) the interruption of something that would normally happen and 2) the omission of something that was intended or was expected to happen. In the first case, the enclitic ending **-ya** is added in many instances. Examples:

ayoʔ *not now*

    Áyoʔya   wi:ʔ.
    [*now-not-now he-comes*]
    He's not coming now (he would normally come often).

    Ayoʔ wi:ʔ.
    [*not-now he-comes*]
    He's not coming now (he was going to come).

ayí:ʔ *never*

    Ayí:ʔ nikita   ihko:mpa kowa:ʔ.
    [*never I-see-it of-this-kind snake*]
    I've never seen a snake like this.

There are forms composed of two elements with the sense *never:*

    ayá:ʔ i:ʔ   *never (equivalent to* **ayí:ʔ***)*
    aya i:ʔ   *never before*
    ayoʔ i:ʔ   *never now*

Also note the following words which, even though they are not adverbs, are normally used as negative responses analogous to adverbs.

    pronouns
        ayéh *isn't, that's not him/her*
        até: *nothing*
        ayagah *no one*

    verb
        ateyi *(there) isn't any*

16.8 The Special Adverb *katka*[1]

katka *previously, better, please, if only*

    Yéh iná:n welya   mela?tahtowa, pero ayéh no: itahtol katka.
    [*he now   he-can-now speak-truly   but isn't also his-speech previously.*]

---

[1] [This is a fossilized vestige of the Classical Nahuatl verb meaning *to be (in a transient position or state)*; the form is the imperfect (in meaning, though pluperfect in form). In the Classical language too, it is used as a tense marker (it specifies a tenseless equative sentence with a subject prefix attached to a noun as applying to the past). —CSM]

Yéh tahtowa:ya   en popoluca.
he   he-would-speak in popoluca]

Now he can speak properly (i.e., in Nahuatl), but this isn't what his speech used to be. He used to speak in popoluca.[1]

Aya   katka xah. Mo:sto:ʔ tia:h,   porque iná:n tayówaya.
[*not-yet better go. tomorrow you (sg.)-will-go because now it-is-late*]

It's better for you not to go yet. You will go tomorrow because it's late now.

Ma   seh   katka xine:wahligili.
[*if-only again please bring-it-to-me*]
If possible, please bring it to me.

Tia:ya   katka ya:lwa.
[*you (sg.)-were-going better yesterday*]
It would have been better for you to have gone yesterday.

Porque si yéh katka kentende:rowa:ya,   makihto,   "xiwi:ki   seh."
[*because if he if-only he-was-expecting-it he-would-say come-here again*]
For if he had understood, he would have said, "come again."

16.9 Inseparable Qualifying Adverbs

The majority of qualifying adverbs of manner are of the inseparable variety, combining with a verbal or adjectival root to form a compound stem. Some inseparable adverbial elements are:

ye:ʔ-	*well*	nehmaʔ-	*doubtfully*
ma:l-	*badly*	yoka-	*intentionally*
melaʔ-	*truly*	sen-	*together*
tawel-	*to the good*	nohma-	*openly*
tawe:l-	*unwillingly*	nema:n-	*somewhat*
na:mo:l-	*crudely*	ičtaka-	*covertly*
čiko-	*crookedly*	sepan-	*reciprocally*
teki-	*habitually*	ohpa-	*anew*
tahko-	*in the middle*	pox-	*a lot, much*

---

[1] [**Popoloca** is a Nahuatl term meaning *to speaking unintelligibly.* This was borrowed into Spanish as a term for various non-Nahuatl-speaking populations. Here it has been borrowed back in its Spanish form (governed by a Spanish preposition). —CSM]

Examples:

> Ki**yoka**tati:to. *He went to burn it* on purpose.
>> [**ki-** object prefix of the 3rd person; **-yoka-** *on purpose*; **-tat-** root of **tata** *to burn*; **-i:-** reduced ending of causative **-iá**; **-to** perfect directional ending towards there]

> Ti**sen**wi:tˢeh. *We will arrive together*.

> Ne:**nohma**-ihlih. *He told me openly*.

> Ači **nema:n**koko:ʔ. *It's a bit spicy*.

> Iní:n **pox**takʷaktiʔ. *This is very hard*.

16.10 Enclitic Adverbial Endings

There is a group of monosyllabic adverbial particles (or endings) that are placed after verbs, adjectives, adverbs and also substantive words without causing a change in the position of the prosodic accent. That is, when an enclitic particle is added to a word, the prosodic accent remains on the same syllable. The result is that the penultimate accent on a word becomes antepenultimate through the addition of an enclitic particle, and the addition of two or more particles puts the accent before the antepenultimate syllable (see Section 1.5).

The following enclitic particles serve to specify the temporal relationship between the elements in the discourse.

> **-ya**[1] *now* (enclitic ending of the third rank)

>> Wi:ʔya pasaje. *The bus is now coming.*
>> Teh titágaʔya. *You (sg.) are a man now.*
>> Wehwéyiya. *They are now grown up.*

> **-a** [variant of **-ya** used after **h**]

>> Kinamakákeha. *Now they sold them.*

> **-o**ʔ   *still, yet, meanwhile, while*
>   (enclitic of the third rank)

---

[1] The enclitic ending **-ya** in the spoken language is often reduced to **-y** after a vowel.
> kítaya *or* kitay *I now see him*
> iyí:xkoya *or* iyí:xkoy *now on top of*
> támiya *or* tamiy *now it is ending*

Maká:wi-oʔ   iga wi:pta.
[*may-he-remain-meanwhile   for the-next-day*]
In the meanwhile, let him stay until the next day

Kínegoʔ[1]   seh   maasi   ipilt^{s}i:n.
[*he-still-wanted-it again that-he-arrive his-son*]
He still wanted his son to come again.

Xí:lo:toʔ[2]   *It is still green corn.*

Manikihli:to:ʔ.[3] *Let me now go to speak to him.*
        (*as long as he has nothing else to do*)

-san *solely, only, emphatically, himself*
        (enclitic ending of the second rank)

Inó:nsan. *There is only that.*
[inó:n *that*]

Se:san noye:meh. *We have only one mother.*
[**se:** *one*, **noye:meh** *our mother*]

Támisan   inó:n kito:ka,   seʔ   lugar yawi.
[*it-ends*-emphat. *that   he-sows-it another place he-goes*]
As soon as he finishes sowing that one, he goes to another place.

Yó:liʔsan   motalowa inó:n a:ʔt.
[*slowly-only it-runs   that   water*]
That river runs slowly.

Yéhsan kihtoh. *He himself said.*

Ka:nsan   iga yahki yéh, neh no: niahki.
[*where-only that he-went he   I   too I-went*]
Wherever he went, I went too.

Other enclitic endings that serve to give emphasis or intensity to a word are:

   -waʔ (enclitic ending of the fourth rank)

---

[1] In the verb **kínego**ʔ, the **g** replaces the glottal stop that is borne by the original form
kineʔ *he asked him.*
[2] The **t** replaces the glottal stop that is part of the original form **xi:lo**ʔ *green corn.*
[3] The complete form of the word is **manikihlí:ti-o**ʔ. The combination of a vowel plus
-oʔ is often reduced to **-o:**ʔ.

[-waʔč seldom used alternative form]

-keh   (enclitic ending of the fifth rank)

-tah   (enclitic ending of the fifth rank)

The enclitic ending **-kiʔ** indicates that what is being communicated is known to the speaker only through hearsay. It is added to the first word or the word that is the nucleus of the clause.

-kiʔ *they say, he said* (enclitic ending of the sixth rank)

Ta:ltámpakiʔ onoʔ a:ltepe:ʔ.
Under the earth, they say, there is a town.

Ómpakiʔ nimota:lih. *There, he said, I sat down.*

When added to a word, the enclitic ending **-pa** signifies that the word is considered as explanatory information. That is, it is the way in which something is done, the direction in which one goes, or the class of persons or things being treated.

-pa (enclitic ending of the first rank)

Anka   katka   mamotísipa.
[*perhaps better that-it-grinds-itself-*pa]
Perhaps it would be better for it to be ground
          (Implies: *Grinding is the better method of preparing it.*)

Wa:lkeh   nihígapa   Ocotah.
[*they-came to-here-*pa *Ocotal*]
They came here by way of Ocotal Texisapan.

Miákeha   yeh teháme:mpa   nemi momačtiáh.
[*many-now who we-*pa   *in-progress they-make-themselves-know*]
Now many of our people are studying.

The ranking in which the adverbial particles appear in relation to the stem are:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
-pa	-san	-(y)a	-waʔ	-keh	-kiʔ
		-oʔ		-tah	

17. Adverbs of Place

17.1 Independent Adverbs of Place
The independent adverbs of place broadly correspond to the adverbs of place in English.

17.1.1 Interrogative
ká:n	*where?*

17.1.2 Relative
ka:n	*where*

17.1.3 Indefinite
kanah	*somewhere*

17.1.4 Negative
akanah	*nowhere*

17.1.5 Demonstratives
17.1.5.1 Simple demonstratives
no:ya:n	*everywhere*
nigah	*here*
ompa	*around there*
nepa	*there*
ne:	*there*
na:ʔ	*near*
wehka	*in the distance, far*
tani	*low*
sentapal	*on the other side*

17.1.5.2 Demonstratives Formed with *-iga*
Some of the simple adverbs are combined with the ending **-iga** or **-ika**.

nihiga	*here* (*contraction:* nihí)
ompiga	*there* (*contraction:* ompí)
ne-iga	*towards there* (*contraction:* ne-í)
ahkopika	*uphill* (*see* **ahkopa** *directly below*)

17.1.5.3 Demonstratives Formed with *-pa*
Adverbs that are formed with an adverb plus the ending **-pa** belong to two classes: 1) those accented on the penult and 2) those accented on the antepenult (see **-pa** in Section 16.10).

With accent on the penult:

| tanipa | *downwards* |
| ahkopa | *upwards* |

With accent on the antepenult:

nígahpa	*towards here* (*contraction:* nihpa)
nihígapa	*towards here* (*contraction:* nihipa)
ómbapa	*towards there (close by)*
	[**omba-** dependent form of **ompa**]
ompígapa	*towards here* (*contraction:* ompipa)
nébapa	*towards there*
	[**neba-** dependent form of **nepa**]
ne-ígapa	*in that direction*

17.2 Independent Adverbs Formed with a Possessive Prefix

Some of the independent adverbs of place laid out above can take a possessive prefix to indicate the relationship that exists between the person or object and the place noted. An adverb composed in this way is equivalent to a prepositional phrase.

nonigah	*on this part of my body*
moompa	*on that part of your (sg.) body*
nono:ya:n	*everywhere on my body*
noná:ʔ	*close to me*
moná:ʔ	*close to you (sg.)*
moká:n?	*on what part of your (sg.) body?*

There is another, distinct use of the adverb **ompa** *there*. With a possessive prefix and the enclitic ending **-ya** *now* it is turned into an adjective that qualifies something that remains good or is good for the person. Example:

| noómpaya | *it's my size, it's good for me* |

When the possessor is in the plural, the ending **-meh** is added if the prefix does not specify the grammatical number.

nona:ʔmeh	*near us (excl.)*
toná:ʔ	*near us (incl.)*
amoná:ʔ	*near you (pl.)*
ina:ʔmeh	*near them*

17.3 Dependent Adverbs of Place

Nahuatl makes use of a large number of dependent adverbial morphemes that form adverbs of place. These morphemes never appear without the possessive (or the generalizing prefix **ta-**) or the substantive nucleus on which it depends, and in many cases it takes both.

When the dependent adverb takes the generalizing prefix **-ta**, the resulting form corresponds to an adverb in English. Examples:

tatampa   *downwards, below*

When it takes a possessive prefix, the adverb is translated into English with a prepositional phrase, and the prefix corresponds to the object of the preposition. Examples:

notampa   *below me*
motampa   *below you (sg.)*
itampa   *below him*

When the prefix consists of a substantival nucleus, it corresponds to the object of the preposition in English. Examples:

tetampa   *below the stone*
a:tampa   *underwater*
kʷatampa   *under the tree*
ta:ltampa   *underground*
tiawa:tampa   *under the rain*

Dependent adverbs with a possessive prefix can function in a manner analogous to that of prepositions in English, governing an independent noun.[1] Phrases formed in this way are less frequent, but they have the same meaning as those composed with an entire substantive nucleus.

itampa teʔti.   *underneath the stone*
itampa kʷawiʔ   *beneath the tree*
itampa tiawa:ʔ   *under the rain*

The combination of a possessive prefix with a possessed substantival nucleus corresponds to the possessed object of the preposition in English. Examples:

nokʷatampa   *beneath my tree*
mokʷatampa   *beneath your (sg.) tree*
ikʷatampa   *beneath his tree*

Next, examples of other adverbial morphemes of place will be laid out.

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[1] [The point is that the third-person prefix refers to or anticipates the noun, which appears separately. Hence, **itampa teʔti** literally says *its-underside the stone*, that is, *beneath it, (namely) the stone*. Thus, there is no equivalence with the syntactic function of the preposition of an Indo-European language, and the formal similarity that both **itampa** and *beneath* stand before the noun is of no significance. —CSM]

17.3.1 *-tah* "where there is much of something or there is something of interest"
The ending **-tah** in its locative use converts a substantive into an adverb of place. It can refer to a place where the thing indicated by the substantive exists or there is a lot of it, in order to indicate where an activity of interest is put into play. An adverb formed with **-tah** normally implies the sort of activities that take place there. Examples:

Nia tek^wisihtah.   *I'm going where there are many crabs.*
                             (Implication: *I'm going to catch crabs*)

Nia ma:ngohtah.   *I'm going where there are many mangoes.*
                             (Implication: *I'm going to harvest mangoes*)

Nia ilwitah.   *I'm going to the festival.*

Nia kawa:yohtah.   *I'm going to where the horse is.*
                             (Implication: *the horse is tethered there*)

Nia kaltah.   *I'm going to where there is a house.*
                             (Implication: *the house is under construction*)

Nia xo:lo:tah.[1]   *I'm going to where there is a baby.*
                             (Implication: *the baby is being born*)

17.3.2 *-i:xtah* "in front of"
This adverb is composed of the root **-i:x-** *eyes* plus **-tah**.

no-i:xtah   *in front of me, in my sight*
mo-i:xtah   *in front of you (sg.), in your sight*
iyi:xtah   *in front of him, in his sight*
etc.

17.3.3 *-tepot^stah* "behind"
This adverb is composed of the root **-tepot^s-** *back* plus **-tah**.

tatepot^stah   *in back*
notepot^stah   *in back of/behind me*
kaltepot^stah   *behind the house*
nokaltepot^stah   *behind my house*

17.3.4 *-t^si:ntan* "at the foot of, on the ground by, at the base of"
This adverb consists of the substantive root **-t^si:n-** *bottom* and the locative element **-tan**. To this are added personal prefixes, substantival roots or the generalizing prefix **ta-**.

---

[1] Only women say this.

it^{s}i:ntan *at his feet*
tat^{s}i:ntan *at the feet of something, at the base*

Mota:lih k^{w}at^{s}i:ntan.
[*he-sat-himself at the foot of the tree*]
He sat down at the foot of the tree.

Nikahteh noaha:wil ne: mokalt^{s}i:ntan.
[*I-left-it my-toy there on-the-ground-by-your-house*]
I left my toy on the ground by your house.

Se: zapatazo ikečt^{s}i:ntan kitamo:tilihté:ʔ.
[*a kick at-the-base-of-the-nape he-threw-it-suddenly*]
He suddenly kicked him in the nape of the neck.

17.3.5 -*nakastan* "at the side of"
This adverb is composed of the root **-nakas-** *ear* and the locative element **-tan**.

Inakastan yawi seʔ pe:lo.
[*at-his-side it-goes another dog*]
Another dog is going beside him.

Tahkoya:n ka:wiʔ in tiʔti, inahnakastan[1] in tekomameh.
[*in-the-middle he-stayed the-fire at-their-side the-gourds*]
The fire stayed in the middle, beside the gourds.

17.3.6 -*ikxitan* "at the feet of"
This adverb is composed of the root **-ikxi-** *feet* plus **-tan**.

Nepa wetstoʔ se: a:ko:xah mokxitan.[2]
[*there it-is-fallen one needle at-your-feet*]
A needle is lying there at your feet.

17.3.7 -*tampa* "below"
The locative adverb **-tampa** consists of the element **-tan** plus the ending **-pa** *towards*. To it are added possessive prefixes or the generalizing prefix **ta-**. Examples:

tatampa *below*
notampa *below me*
motampa *below you (sg.)*
itampa *below him*

---

[1] The locative adverb **inahnakastan** contains a reduplicated syllable that indicates the plurality of the substantive.
[2] In the last word, the initial **i-** in **ikxitan** is dropped with the addtition of the prefixe **mo-**.

notampameh　　　　*below us (excl.)*
totampa *or*
totampameh　　　　*below us (incl.)*
amotampa *or*
amotampameh　　　　*below you (pl.)*
itampameh *or*
itahtampa[1]　　　　*below them*

17.3.8 -ihtiʔ "within, inside, in"

This locative element is derived from the substantival root **-ihti** *stomach*. In its locatival function, **-ihtiʔ** always occurs with a substantive root placed in front of it or with the generalizing prefix.

ta-ihtiʔ
Ta-ihtiʔ wi:ʔ　　a:ʔti.
[*inside it-comes water*]
The water is coming inside.

Ahá:ʔ　　yéh kahkeh ta-ihtiʔ?
[*it-is-who who stayed inside*]
Who are those who remained inside?

Wetˢtoʔ　　kalihtiʔ.
[*he-is-fallen within-the-house*]
He's fallen inside the house.

Nisiáwiya　　　　　　iga　　　nitekipanowa mi:lihtiʔ.
[*I-tired-myself-now　when　I-work　　in-the-field*]
I get tired when I work in the field.

In a very common use of the locative **-ihtiʔ**, it signifies *in* or *in the area of*.

Yahki　　a-ihtiʔ　　　kipa:kato　　　iyayo:l.
[*he-went in-the-gully he-went-to-wash his-hulled-corn*]
He went into the gully to wash his corn.

The following example takes a possessive prefix. (With the addition of the diminutive ending, the glottal stop turns into **k**.)

Nia nimoča:nti:ti sentapal　　　　　to-a-ihtiktˢi:n.
[*I-go I-go-to-live on-the-other-side our-little-in-the-water*]
I'm going to go live on the other side of our little stream.

---

[1] The adverb **itahtampa** contains a reduplicated syllable that indicates the plurality of the substantive.

17.3.9 *-ihtiko* "inside"
The compound locative **-ihtiko** consists of the root **-ihti** *stomach* and the locative element **-ko** *in*. Possessive prefixes are added to it.

iyihtiko *inside it*

Óno?ya iyihtiko campana serpiente.
[*there-is inside-it bell   snake*]
There's a snake inside the bell.

Ka:wi? nohtiko.[1]
It stayed in my stomach.

17.3.10 *-tahko* "in the middle, center of"
Mero   itahko   kala? bala.
[*just in-its-middle entered ball*]
The ball reached right into the middle of it.

17.3.11 *-tˢa:la:n* "among, in the middle of"
totˢa:la:n *among us (incl.)*
tehtetˢa:la:n[2] *among the stones*
ima:mekayotˢa:la:n *among the tendons of his hand*
        [**i-** 3rd pers. poss. prefix; **-ma:-** *hand*; **-meka-** *cord*: **-yo-** suffix of intrinsic
        possession; **-tˢa:la:n** *among*]

17.3.12 *-pan* "upon, in, over"
The locative element **-pan** can take possessive prefixes or substantival roots placed in front of it.

With possessive prefixes:
nopan *over me*
mopan *over you (sg.)*
ípan *over him*
nopameh[3] *over us (excl.)*
topan *over us (incl.)*
amopan *over you (pl.)*
ipameh *over them*

---

[1] In **nohtiko** the initial **i-** is dropped after the prefix **no-**.
[2] **tehte-** is a reduplicated plural from **te?ti**.
[3] In this form, and in the third-person plural, the final **-n** in **pan** apparently assimilates to the initial **m-** in the plural marker **-meh**, and the resultant double **-mm-** is then simplified.

With substantive roots:

Si nimiki nomi:lpan, neh manimiki.
[*if I-die in-my-field I   may-I-die*]
If I die in my field, then let me die.

We:wehtˢi:n   kočto?   ahkopan.
[*little-old-man he-is-sleeping in-upper-part*]
The little old man is sleeping up on the loft.

Ómpaya   tahko-ono?   tixo:talpan.[1]
[*there-now it-is-in-the-middle in-the- fire-gleam*]
Now it's there in middle, in the gleam of the fire.

Ta:tapohtiawih   ipan ohti.
[*they-go-chatting in-it road*]
They go chatting on the road.

The previous sentence is an example of the prepositional use similar to that of English. In this use, the word **ipan** is not accented. The word **pan** is regularly used as a preposition without the possessive prefix. Examples:

pan neh	*in me*
pan teh	*in you (sg.)*
pan yéh	*in him*
pan nehame:n	*in us (excl.)*
pan tehame:n	*in us (incl.)*
pan amehwa:n	*in you (pl.)*
pan yehame:n	*in them*

17.3.13 *-yakapan* "over, on top of"
noyakapan *over me*

Ikʷá? iga tiktˢehtˢelo:h   in mango, xine-ihli iga   amo
 [*when that you (sg.)-will-shake-it the mango tell-me so-that not*

  noyakapan wetˢis.
  upon-me   it-will-fall]
When you shake the mango tree, let me know so that mangoes won't fall on me.

Ne:tankʷah kowa:? no ve:s nitaksa? iyakapan.
[*it-bit-me   snake   because I-stepped upon-it*]
The snake bit me because I stepped on it.

---

[1] **ti-** dependent root of **ti?ti** *fire*; **-xo:tal-** *sparkle.*

Čoočiči:n   nemih   kʷayakapan.
[*little-children they-are upon-the-tree*]
The little children are in the top of the tree.

17.3.14 *-ko* "inside, in"
tiko *in the fire*
xapoko *in the hole*

Ki-akih   seh   taxkal tiko.
[*he-threw-it again tortilla in-fire*]
He threw the tortilla into the fire again.

Yáhkiki?   xapoko ka:n   onokeh   ipilowa:n
[*he-went-they-say in-hole where they-were his-children*]
They say he went into the hole where his children were.

In certain grammatical constructions, **-ko** assumes the characteristic of an enclitic. The word then takes the accent on the antepenult and not on the penult, as if the **-ko** were not part of the word. Examples:

tó:nalko   *in the heat*
íte:nko   *in his mouth*
íyi:xko   *in his eye* (cf. **iyi:xko** *on top of*)

17.3.15 *-wa:n* "with, together with"
The comitative element **-wa:n** combines with possessive prefixes to form locative compounds of a comitative type that are translated in English by means of phrases or compounds containing the preposition *with*.

nowa:n   *with me*
mowa:n   *with you (sg.)*
íwa:n (with accented **i-**)   *with him*
nowa:meh   *with us (excl.)*
towa:n *or* towa:meh   *with us (incl.)*
amowa:n *or* amowa:meh   *with you (pl.)*
iwa:meh   *with them*

It is necessary to distinguish between this locative compound **íwa:n** (with accented **i-**), which functions as an adverb, and the form **iwá:n**, which functions as a preposition and copulative conjunction.[1] Examples:

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[1] [Again, referring to **íwa:n** as an adverb while calling **iwá:n** a preposition is to consider things from an Indo-European point of view (see Section 17.3 n. 1). In terms of Nahuatl syntax, the functions of these forms are the same ("with it" or "therewith"), but when the

conjunction:	Nimota:lih, **iwá:n** nitakʷah. *I sat down* and *ate.*
preposition:	Yahkih **iwá:n** ipilowa:n. *He went* with *his children.*
adverb:	Yahkih **íwa:n**. *He went with him.* or *They went with him.*

The verb in Nahuatl normally takes the plural marker in sentences which have a compound (comitative) subject, even though the subject is in the singular in the translation. The number of the verb agrees with the number of participants. For example, in the preceding sentence, *he went with him*, it is considered that there is more than one participant, and thus the verb **yahkih** is in the plural.

17.3.16 General Locative Elements *-ka:n* and *-ya:n*

The elements **-ka:n** and **-ya:n** combine with certain non-substantive roots to form locative words.

iyi:ka:n	*on that side of*
seka:n	*in a single place*
tayowaka:n	*in the dark, at night*
ohmaxalka:n	*at the split in the road*
to:naya:n	*in the sun*
tahkoya:n	*in the middle, center*
itamiya:n	*at the edge of*

17.3.17 *-i:xko* "on top of"

This adverb is composed of **-i:x-** *eye, surface* and **-ko** *in.*

a-i:xko   *on top of the water*
In a:ma? ono? a-i:xko.
[*the-paper is on-top-of-water*]

---

form is used absolutely (i.e., without being accompanied by a dependent noun to which the prefix **i-** directly refers), that is, in the usages called preposition or conjunction here, then the accent is on **-wa:n**. If, on the other hand, the noun to which the third person possessive prefix appears in conjunction with the form **iwa:n** (in the usage referred to in the text as a preposition with the terminology of Spanish), then the prefix bears the accent (i.e., **íwa:n**). —CSM]

18. Irregular Verbs

Those verbs are irregular that alternate their roots when conjugated or that take different endings from those of the paradigm verbs. The irregularities are of two types: 1) uniform changes that follow certain more or less fixed rules, which are called *morphophonemic rules*, and 2) variable changes that are special irregularities or specific irregularities. Let us first look at the verbs that undergo morphophonemic changes.

18.1 Irregularities in the Preterite
Certain verbs of Group 1 undergo morphophonemic changes in the preterite that make them deviate from the norm laid out in the paradigms.

18.1.1 Uniform Change of *k* to *g*
Verbs that end in **-ka** or **-ki** in the present singular turn **k** into **g** in the preterite singular if this is preceded by a vowel.[1] Examples:

Present singular		Preterite singular	
kipa:ka	*he washes it*	kipa:gaʔ	*he washed it*
takʷi:ka	*he sings*	takʷi:gaʔ	*he sang*
pa:ki	*he rejoices*	pa:giʔ	*he rejoiced*
kikaki	*he hears him*	kikagiʔ	*he heard him*

Exception (see the next section):

kalaki	*he enters*	kalaʔ	*he entered*

18.2 Apocopated Forms of the Preterite
Many verbs of Group 1 drop the thematic vowel to form the preterite singular. The words that are reduced in conformity with a grammatical rule are called *apocopated*.[2] Because of apocope there are verbs that end in **-n**, **-l**, **-h**, or **-ʔ** in the preterite singular.

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[1] [The original text covered this material in two separate sections, one for verbs with the thematic vowel **-a**, which change in Spanish orthography from "ca" to "ga," and a second for verbs with the thematic vowel **-i**, which change from "qui" to "gui." The underlying phonology in each case is the same, and the distinction is based only on the vagaries of Spanish orthography. In these verbs, if the voiceless velar stop (**k**) begins the last syllable of the present stem and is intervocalic, it becomes voiced (**g**) in the preterite. These are Class 1 (A) verbs according to the classification of Classical Nahuatl. —CSM]

[2] [This category corresponds to Class 2 (B) of Classical Nahuatl. —CSM]

18.2.1 Verbs of Group 1 Ending in *-h* in the Preterite

A subclass of Group 1 verbs ending in **-wa** in the present singular drop the last syllable and take **-h** in the preterite singular.[1] Most of the verbs that belong to this subclass are transitive ones in which the vowel placed in front of the ending **-wa** is long. Examples:

kika:wa	*he leaves it*	kikah	*he left it*
kikope:wa	*he unglues it*	kikopeh	*he unglued it*
kiči:wa	*he does it*	kičih	*he did it*

There is one example of an intransitive verb that conjugates in this way.

wehka:wa	*he lingers*	wehkah	*he lingered*

There is a single other example of an intransitive verb ending in **-wi**, which conjugates by dropping the last syllable and taking **-h** in the preterite singular.

tehkawi	*he climbs*	tehkah	*he climbed*
		tehkahkeh	*they climbed*

18.2.2 Verbs Ending in *-l* in the Preterite

There is one verb that ends in **-li** in the present singular and takes **-l** in the preterite singular. Example:

kitahkali	*he throws it away*	kitahkal	*he threw it away*

18.2.3 Verbs Ending in *-n* in the Preterite

A subclass of verbs that end in **-ma**, **-na**, **-mi** or **-ni** in the present singular drop the thematic vowel in the preterite singular. The **m** that would be at the end turns into **n**. The majority of the verbs that constitute this subclass are transitive. Examples:

kitila:na	*he pulls it*	kitila:n	*he pulled it*
kitahtani	*he asks for it*	kitahtan	*he asked for it*
kiht^soma	*he sews it*	kiht^son	*he sewed it*
kičihčimi	*he feels it*	kičihčin	*he felt it*

An intransitive verb is apocopated in the same way.

nehnemi	*he travels*	nehnen	*he travelled*

Transitive verbs that have roots of less than three syllables (including the thematic vowel) are exceptions to the preceding rule. The preterite of these verbs is regular, as are the majority of the intransitive verbs. Examples:

---

[1] [In Classical Nahuatl, verbs with a preterite stem ending in **-w** devoice the consonant, which appears merely as aspiration in this dialect. —CSM]

ki-e:na	*he stores it*	ki-e:naʔ	*he stored it*
kimana	*he boils it*	kimanaʔ	*he boiled it*
nimaya:na	*I am hungry*	nimaya:naʔ	*I was hungry*
poxo:ni	*it bursts*	poxo:niʔ	*it burst*

The root **-e:na** among the preceding examples goes back to taking the **n** in the preterite singular when the word is expanded through reduplication and the use of the generalizing prefix **ta-**.

ta-ehe:na	*he stores things*	ta-ehe:n	*he stored things*

18.2.4 Verbs Ending in *-a:miki*
Certain verbs ending in **-a:miki** in the present singular lose two syllables and take **-n** in the preterite singular.[1] Examples:

nikehla:miki	*I remember it*	nikehla:n	*I remembered it*
niki:xna:miki	*I encounter him*	niki:xna:n	*I encountered him*

18.2.5 Apocopated Alternates Ending in the Glottal Stop
Certain verbs ending in **-ka**, **ki** or **kʷi** in the present singular take an apocopated alternate form for the preterite singular. The final syllable loses its initial consonant and the vowel and is reduced to **-ʔ** (glottal stop).[2] Examples:

Present

niktohtoka	*I drive it off*
nikneki	*I want it*
nikahkokʷi	*I raise it*

Preterite **(full forms)**		**Preterite** **(apocopated forms)**	
niktohtogaʔ	*I drove it off*	niktohtoʔ	*I drove it off*
niknegiʔ	*I wanted it*	nikneʔ	*I wanted it*
nikahkokʷiʔ	*I raised it*	nikahkoʔ	*I raised it*

Contracted Variants. There are also other, alternate forms for the preceding verbs. These involve a sort of apocope that results in the words having the prosodic accent on the final syllable. To distinguish between the two types of apocope, we adopt the following definitions:

---

[1] [That is, the ending **-iki** is dropped and the now final **m** becomes **n**. —CSM]
[2] [Historically, it would be preferable to say that the thematic vowel is dropped (as in the preceding categories), and the now final velar stop is weakened into the glottal stop. —CSM]

We call those verbal forms *apocopated* in which the prosodic accent changes position due to the loss of a final element, with the result that the word retains the accent on the penultimate syllable, as is normal.

We call those variant forms *contracted* in which the last syllable is merely lost without the prosodic accent changing position, with the result that the final syllable remains accented.

Examples of apocopated and contracted variants are:

Present	Preterite		
	Apocopated	**Full**	**Contracted**
kineki *he wants it*	kineʔ	kinegiʔ	kinéʔ
niktohtoka *I drive it off*	niktohtoʔ	niktohtogaʔ	niktohtóʔ

18.3 Special Irregularities
There are three verbs that conjugate in a special way, and one that has its own peculiar irregularity in the preterite.

18.3.1 Conjugation of the Verb *-ia/-ya* "to go"

Present

nia[1]	*I go*	niawih	*we (excl.) go*
		tiawih	*we (incl.) go*
tia	*you (sg.) go*	anyawih	*you (pl.) go*
yawi	*he goes*	yawih	*they go*

Future

nia:h	*I will go*	nia:skeh	*we (excl.) will go*
		tia:skeh	*we (incl.) will go*
tia:h	*you (sg.) will go*	anya:skeh	*you (pl.) will go*
ya:h	*he will go*	ya:skeh	*they will go*

---

[1] [All varieties of Nahuatl have trouble distinguishing between the natural **y**-glide that appears between the vowels **i** and **a** on the one hand and the situation when a syllable beginning with **ya** is added to a syllable ending in **i**. Clearly, in the present situation **nia** stands for **niya**. Why this **y** at the start of a semantically significant root should not be noted in the orthography while the imperfect ending **-ya** always retains its initial **y** is not clear. —CSM]

Alternative forms in the future singular

nia:s	*I will go*	
tia:s	*you (sg.) will go*	
ya:s	*he will go*	

Imperfect

nia:ya	*I would go*	nia:yah	*we (excl.) would go*
		tia:yah	*we (incl.) would go*
tia:ya	*you (sg.) would go*	anya:yah	*you (pl.) would go*
ya:ya	*he would go*	ya:yah	*they would go*

Preterite

niahki	*I went*	niahkih	*we (excl.) went*
		tiahkih	*we (incl.) went*
tiahki	*you (sg.) went*	anyahkih	*you (pl.) went*
yahki	*he went*	yahkih	*they went*

Transitory Preterite

niahka	*I went (and returned)*	niahkah	*we (excl.) went* etc.
		tiahkah	*we (incl.) went* etc.
tiahka	*you (sg.) went (and returned)*	anyahkah	*you (pl.) went* etc.
yahka	*he went (and returned)*	yahkah	*they went* etc.

Periphrastic Future

nia:ti	*I'm going to go*	nia:tih	*we're (excl.) going* etc
		tia:tih	*we're (incl.) going* etc
tia:ti	*you're (sg.) going to go*	anya:tih	*you're (pl.) going* etc.
ya:ti	*he's going to go*	ya:tih	*they're going to go*

Imperative-subjunctive mood

maniá	*may I go*	mania:ka:n	*may we (excl.) go*
		matia:ka:n	*may we (incl.) go*
xah	*go (sg.)!*	xa:ka:n	*go (pl.)!*
mayawi	*may he go*	maya:ka:n	*may they go*

Desiderative mood

Present

nia:hneki	*I want to go*	nia:hnekih	*we (excl.) want to go*
		tia:hnekih	*we (incl.) want to go*
tia:hneki	*you (sg.) want to go*	anya:hnekih	*you (pl.) want to go*
ya:hneki	*he wants to go*	ya:hnekih	*they want to go*

Future

nia:hnekis	*I'll want to go*	nia:hnekiskeh	*we'll (excl.) want* etc.
		tia:hnekiskeh	*we'll (incl.) want* etc.
tia:hnekis	*you'll (sg.) want to go*	anya:hnekiskeh	*you'll (pl.) want* etc.
ya:hnekis	*he'll want to go*	ya:hnekiskeh	*they'll want to go*

Imperfect

nia:hnekia:ya	*I wanted to go*	nia:hnekia:yah	*we (excl.) wanted* etc.
		tia:hnekia:yah	*we (incl.) wanted* etc.
tia:hnekia:ya	*you (sg.) wanted to go*	anya:hnekia:yah	*you (pl.) wanted* etc.
ya:hnekia:ya	*he wanted to go*	ya:hnekia:yah	*they wanted to go*

Contracted forms for the imperfect

nia:hnekiá	*I wanted to go*	nia:hnekiáh	*we (excl.) wanted* etc.
		tia:hnekiáh	*we (incl.) wanted* etc.
tia:hnekiá	*you (sg.) wanted to go*	anya:hnekiáh	*you (pl.) wanted* etc.
ya:hnekiá	*he wanted to go*	ya:henekiáh	*they wanted to go*

Preterite

nia:hnegiʔ	*I wanted to go*	nia:hnekikeh	*we (excl.) wanted* etc.
		tia:hnekikeh	*we (incl.) wanted* etc.
tia:hnegiʔ	*you (sg.) wanted to go*	anya:hnekikeh	*you (pl.) wanted to go*
ya:hnegiʔ	*he wanted to go*	ya:hnekikeh	*they wanted to go*

Transitory preterite[1]

nia:hnekika	*I wanted to go*	nia:hnekikah	*we (excl.) wanted* etc.
		tia:hnekikah	*we (incl.) wanted* etc.
tia:hnekika	*you (sg.) wanted to go*	anya:hnekikah	*you (pl.) wanted* etc.
ya:hnekika	*he wanted to go*	ya:hnekikah	*they wanted to go*

18.3.2 Conjugation of the Verb *wi:-/wa:l-* "to come"

Present

niwi:ʔ	*I come*	niwi:t^seh	*we (excl.) come*
		tiwi:t^seh	*we (incl.) come*
tiwi:ʔ	*you (sg.) come*	anwi:t^seh	*you (pl.) come*
wi:ʔ	*he comes*	wi:t^seh	*they come*

Alternate forms of the present singular (*less common*)

niwi:t^s	*I come*
tiwi:t^s	*you (sg.) come*
wi:t^s	*he comes*

---

[1] All the forms in the desiderative mood that begin with **nia:h-**, **tia:h-**, **ya:h-** or **anya:h-** can also be written **nia:as**, **tia:s-**, **ya:s-** or **anya:s-**, which represent less frequent alternate pronunciations.

Future
(same as present)

Imperfect

niwi:tˢia:ya	I would come	niwi:tˢia:ya	we (excl.) would come
		tiwi:tˢia:yah	we (incl.) would come
tiwi:tˢia:ya	you (sg.) would come	anwi:tˢia:yah	you (pl.) would come
wi:tˢa:ya	he would come	wi:tˢia:yah	they would come

Contracted forms for the imperfect

niwi:tˢiá	I wanted to come	niwi:tˢiáh	we (excl.) wanted etc.
		tiwi:tˢiáh	we (incl.) wanted etc.
tiwi:tˢiá	you (sg.) wanted to come	anwi:tˢiáh	you (pl.) wanted etc.
wi:tˢiá	he wanted to come	wi:tˢiáh	they wanted to come

Preterite

niwa:lah	I came	niwa:lkeh	we (excl.) came
		tiwa:lkeh	we (incl.) came
tiwa:lah	you (sg.) came	anwa:lkeh	you (pl.) came
wa:lah	he came	wa:lkeh	they came

Transitory Preterite

niwa:lka	I came (didn't stay)	niwa:lkah	we (excl.) came etc.
		tiwa:lkah	we (incl.) came etc.
tiwa:lka	you (sg.) came (didn't stay)	anwa:lkah	you (pl.) came etc.
wa:lka	he came (didn't stay)	wa:lkah	they came etc.

Periphrastic Future

niwi:tˢeti	I'm going to come	niwi:tˢetih	we're (excl.) going etc
		tiwi:tˢetih	we're (incl.) going etc
tiwi:tˢeti	you're (sg.) going to come	anwi:tˢetih	you're (pl.) going etc.
wi:tˢeti	he's going to come	wi:tˢetih	they're going to go

Imperative-subjunctive mood

maniwi:ki	may I come	maniwi:kika:n	may we (excl.) come
		matiwi:kika:n	may we (incl.) come
xiwi:ki	come (sg.)!	xiwi:kika:n	come (pl.)!
mawi:ki	may he come	mawi:kika:n	may they come

Alternate forms for the imperative-subjunctive plural

maniwi:tseka:n	may we (excl.) come
matiwi:tseka:n	may we (incl.) come
xiwi:tseka:n	come (pl.)!
mawi:tseka:n	may they come

Desiderative mood (only third-person forms)

Present

wi:ʔneki	*he wants to come*
wi:ʔnekih	*they want to come*

Future

wi:ʔnekis	*he will want to come*
wi:ʔnekiskeh	*they will want to come*

Imperfect

wi:ʔnekia:ya	*he wanted to come*
wi:ʔnekia:yah	*they wanted to come*

Contracted forms for the imperfect

wi:ʔnekiá	*he wanted to come*
wi:ʔnekiáh	*they wanted to come*

Preterite

wi:ʔnegiʔ	*he wanted to come*
wi:ʔnekikeh	*they wanted to come*

Transitory Preterite

wi:ʔnekika	*he had wanted to come*
wi:ʔnekikah	*they had wanted to come*

18.3.3 Conjugation of the Verb *ono-* "to be"

Preterite used as present

nonoʔ	*I am*	nonokeh	*we (excl.) are*
		tonokeh	*we (incl.) are*
tonoʔ	*you (sg.) are*	amonokeh	*you (pl.) are*
onoʔ	*he is*	onokeh	*they are*

There are forms of this verb that take the endings of the present. These are used when the tense is indeterminate or irrelevant.

nono	*I am*	nonoh	*we (excl.) are*
		tonoh	*we (incl.) are*
tono	*you (sg.) are*	amonoh	*you (pl.) are*
ono	*he is*	onoh	*they are*

The following sentence illustrates a special use of the present-indeterminate (other examples can be found in Section 13.1.1).

　　Ónoya kone:ʔ. *The baby is about to be born.*

Future

nonos	*I will be*	nonoskeh	*we (excl.) will be*
		tonoskeh	*we (incl.) will be*
tonos	*you (sg.) will be*	amonoskeh	*you (pl.) will be*
onos	*he will be*	onoskeh	*they will be*

Imperfect

nonoya	*I would be*	nonoyah	*we (excl.) would be*
		tonoyah	*we (incl.) would be*
tonoya	*you (sg.) would be*	amonoyah	*you (pl.) would be*
onoya	*he would be*	onoyah	*they would be*

(This verb does not appear in the simple transitory preterite.)

Future periphrastic and present-future directional towards there

nonoti	*I'm going to be*	nonotih	*we're (excl.) going* etc
		tonotih	*we're (incl.) going* etc
tonoti	*you're (sg.) going to be*	amonotih	*you're (pl.) going* etc.
onoti	*he's going to be*	onotih	*they're going to be*

Examples of other directional tenses:

Preterite towards there
onoto   *he went to be*

Transitory preterite towards there
onoto:ya   *he went and was (then returned)*

Present and future towards here
onoki   *he is coming to be*

Preterite towards here
onoko   *he came to be*

Transitory preterite towards here
onoko:ya   *he came and was (then went away)*

Imperative-subjunctive mood

manono	*may I be*	manonoka:n	*may we (excl.) be*
		matonoka:n	*may we (incl.) be*
xono	*be (sg.)!*	xonoka:n	*be (pl.)!*
maono	*may he be*	maonoka:n	*may they be*

Desiderative mood

<div align="center">

Present

</div>

nonosneki	*I want to be*	nonosnekih	*we (excl.) want to be*
		tonosnekih	*we (incl.) want to be*
tonosneki	*you (sg.) want to be*	amonosnekih	*you (pl.) want to be*
onosneki	*he wants to be*	onosnekih	*they want to be*

The other tenses of the desiderative mood conjugate with the appropriate endings.

18.3.4 Conjugation of the Verb *-wahliga* "to bring"
The verb **-wahliga** (or **-waliga**) *to bring* includes an irregularity peculiar that consists in the lenghtening of the final vowel in the preterite singular, which belongs to the apocopating variety. The other tenses agree with the regular endings of the first conjugation.

<div align="center">

Present

</div>

nikwahliga	*I bring it*	nikwahligah	*we (excl.) bring it*
		tikwahligah	*we (incl.) bring it*
tikwahliga	*you (sg.) bring it*	ankwahligah	*you (pl.) bring it*
kiwahliga	*he brings it*	kwahligah	*they bring it*

<div align="center">

Preterite

</div>

nikwahli:ʔ	*I brought it*	nikwahligakeh	*we (excl.) brought it*
		tikwahligakeh	*we (incl.) brought it*
tikwahli:ʔ	*you (sg.) brought it*	ankiwahligakeh	*you (pl.) brought it*
kiwahli:ʔ	*he brought it*	kiwahligakeh	*they brought it*

18.4 Dropping the Thematic Vowel in the Plural
The thematic vowel is dropped in the preterite plural of many verbs. For some verbs this loss is obligatory, and others do not allow it, but the majority normally drop the vowel in alternative forms.

18.4.1 Obligatory Loss
The thematic vowel is obligatorily dropped in the preterite of the verb **-či:wa** *to do*.

Singular		**Plural**	
kiči:wa	*he does it*	kiči:wah	*they do it*
kičih	*he did it*	kičihkeh	*they did it*

In addition, compound verbs formed with **-te:wa** *instantly, quickly* obligatorily drop the thematic vowel in the preterite plural. Examples in the third person:

	Singular		**Plural**
kikahte:wa	*he abandons it (instantly)*	kikahte:wah	*they abandon it (instantly)*
kikahteh[1]	*he abandoned it*	kikahtehkeh	*they abandoned it*
isate:wa	*he awakes (instantly)*	isate:wah	*they awake (instantly)*
isate:waʔ	*he awoke*	isatehkeh	*they awoke*

18.4.2 Optional Loss

The thematic vowel is normally dropped as an alternate form in the preterite plural of the following verbs (examples in the third person):

	Singular		**Plural**
čo:ka	*he cries*	čo:kah	*they cry*
čo:gaʔ	*he cried*	čo:kakeh *or*	
		čo:kkeh	*they cried*
ke:na	*he stores it*	ke:nah	*they store it*
ke:naʔ	*he stored it*	ke:nakeh *or*	
		ke:nkeh	*they stored it*
kino:tˢa	*he calls him*	kino:tˢah	*they call him*
kino:tˢaʔ	*he called him*	kino:tˢakeh *or*	
		kino:tˢkeh	*they called him*
kitisi	*he grinds it*	kitisih	*they grind it*
kitisiʔ	*he ground it*	kitisikeh *or*	
		kitiskeh	*they ground it*
koči	*he sleeps*	kočih	*they sleep*
kočiʔ	*he slept*	kočikeh *or*	
		kočkeh	*they slept*
mokʷepa	*he returns*	mokʷepah	*they return*
mokʷepaʔ	*he returned*	mokʷepakeh *or*	
		mokʷepkeh	*they returned*

Note that **m** turns into **n** and **w** into **h** with the loss of the following vowel. Also, the long vowel that precedes the **h** becomes short.

nehnemi	*he travels*	nehnemih	*they travel*
nehnen	*he traveled*	nehnemikeh *or*	
		nehnenkeh	*they travel*

---

[1] The form **kikahteh** is the only verb composed of **-te:wa** that undergoes apocope in the preterite *singular*.

kixitoma	*he unties it*	kixitomah	*they untie it*
kixitoma? *or*		kixitomakeh *or*	
kixiton	*he untied it*	kixitonkeh	*they untied it*
takowa	*he buys*	takowah	*they buy*
takowa?	*he bought*	takowakeh *or*	
		takohkeh	*they bought*
ka:wi	*he remains*	ka:wih	*they remain*
ka:wi?	*he remained*	ka:wikeh *or*	
		kahkeh	*they remained*

18.4.3 Prohibited Loss

The thematic vowel is never dropped in the preterite plural of the following verbs:

Singular		**Plural**	
isa?	*he awoke*	isakeh	*they awoke*
asi?	*he arrived*	asikeh	*they arrived*
kita?	*he saw it*	kitakeh	*they saw it*
kipata?	*he changed it*	kipatakeh	*they changed it*
kimaga?	*he gave*	kimakakeh	*they gave it*
kimaga?	*he struck him*	kimagakeh	*they struck him*
tata?	*it burned*	tatakeh	*they burned*
migi?	*he died*	mikikeh	*they died*
kinamaga?	*he sold it*	kinamakakeh	*they sold it*

18.5 Accentuation of the Thematic Vowel

In certain verbs of the first conjugation (Group 1), the ending is accentuated: **-á**.

wey**á**	*it grows*
tač**á**	*he looks*
kipi**á**	*he has it*
yama:ni**á**	*it softens*
ali:mpati**á**	*it gets smaller*
motehk^wi**á**	*she wraps herself (in a blanket)*
tayowati**á**	*it is getting dark*

The fact that they end in **-ás** in the future proves that they belong to the first conjugation

wey**ás**	*it will grow*
tač**ás**	*he will look*
kipi**ás**	*he will have it*
yama:ni**ás**	*it will soften*
ali:mpati**ás**	*it will get smaller*
motehk^wi**ás**	*she will wrap herself (in a blanket)*

tayowati**ás**   *it will get dark*

18.6 Defective Verbs

The following verbs only appear in the present, future and imperfect:

ateyi   *is not, there is not*
ateyis   *will not be, there will not be*
ateyá   *was not, there was not*

kʷalo   *it hurts*
kʷalos   *it will hurt*
kʷalowa:ya   *it would hurt*

Teyi is not used in a positive sense. Nonetheless, it appears as an independent word accompanied by an independent negative particle. Personal subject prefixes can be added to it.

aya teyi   *it is not yet, there isn't yet*
ayoʔ teyi   *it is not now, there isn't now*
aniteyá   *I was not*
ayoʔ niteyá   *I was no longer*

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