

# Nimipuutimt Volume 4

44:25 minutes:

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1 By Vera Sonneck 2 by Vera & Angel Sobotta (static, but audible) 3 by Vera Sonneck & Bessie Scott  
4 by Vera Sonneck & Angel Sobotta (static, but audible) 5-14 by Vera Sonneck & Angel Sobotta  
Recorded 7-24-04 Nez Perce Tribe©

# Nimipuutímt – The People's Language (Nez Perce)

(In the parenthesis below is the sign-language that goes with the pledge.)

***cukwenéewit*, Know it**

(With your right index finger point to the side of your head, by your right temple.)

***hitéemeneewit*, Learn it**

(With both hands, reach out with palms facing up and pull in towards body, closing palms.)

***técukwe*, Teach it**

(With both hands, throw palms out in front of you like you are giving away something.)

***c'ixnéewit*, Speak it**

(With right hand, up to the mouth and hand rounded, throw hand out, palm open.)

***titooqanáawit*, Live it**

(With right hand, tap heart twice.)

***wiyéeeleehesn*, Everyday!**

(With both arms and hands, extend them out to each side, palms up,  
so that you bring them out for sunrise and in for sunset.)

\*Pledge revised by Angel Sobotta 6-23-05

## Nez Perce Leadership Slogan

nimíipuu mimiyóôat hic'íiqteenix

Nez Perce leaders speak

**tim'néepkinix**

from the heart

**hiwsíix qa'ánin',**

They are respectable or have good character

**wiwéepcux, wiwáaq'is 'ewsíix néekt,**

Intelligence, Healthy mind,

**ciláakt kaa hewléexhewlex**

body and spirit.

**kúnk'u 'imama'hináq'in hiwsíix**

Always ready to be of service

**wapáyatat'as nimíipuu titóoqapx.**

to their Nez Perce people.

\*5-12-04 Revised by Adult Class

### Nimipuutímt Spelling System:

á = short **a** sounds like the **a**'s in **Dakota**. Ex: **háham** - men.

áa = long **a** sounds like the **a** in **hall** or **paw**. Ex: **táamsas** – Wild Rose

é = short **e** sounds like the **e** in **echo**. Ex: **síwe** – forehead.

éé = long **e** sounds like the **a** in **wack**. Ex: **wééptes** – golden eagle.

i = short **i** sounds like the **i** in **it**. Ex: **tít** – tooth.

íi = long **i** sounds like the **e**'s in **bee**. Ex: **píips** - bones

o = short **o** sounds like the **o** in **potato** & **Arapaho**. Ex: **tóhon** – pants.

óo = long **o** sounds like the **o** in **oh**, **tone**. Long **o** doesn't glide into a **w**. Ex: **sooyáapoo** – Euro American

u = short **u** sounds like the **u** in **put** and **look**. Ex: **sílu** – eye.

úu = long **u** sounds like the bold in **pooh** or **through**. Ex: **húusus** – head

aw = sounds close, but not exactly the same as the **ow** in **towel**. Ex: **láwtiwaa** – friend.

ay = sounds like the bold in **mine** or **pie**. Ex: **tamtáayn**-news or **laymíwt**-youngest one.

eey = sounds like the word “Aye”. Ex: **Méeywi** – morning.

ew = sounds close, but not exactly the same as the **ow** in **towel**. Ex: **tewlíikt** – tree.

c = sounds like the **ts** in “**hits**”. Ex: **cíicyele** – purple.

ł = Special **l** sound. Put the tip of the tongue on the roof of mouth & when trying to say the “l” sound, air comes out of the sides of the mouth. Ex: **léepłep** – Butterfly.

q = The “back **k**” sounds close, but not exactly the same as the **k** in **ketchup**. Ex: **géhep**-bobcat.  
*There is no English sound equivalent to a q.*

x = soft “**x**” hunch up your tongue close to the top of your mouth. Start to say the **k** sound & then move your tongue down just a little. Ex: **tátx** – fawn.

ĥ = The uvular or “back” **x**. It is formed much like the soft **x**, but farther back in the mouth. Ex: **túuĥ** -

ᵿ = The same as the above. The ᵿ is an updated font which will be used in the future. tobacco.

' = the glottal stop, for popping & stopping sounds. Say the word **That** like **Tha'**, you cut it off, it's a half consonant, like “**Uh** oh!” Ex: **wáaqo'**- now.

**Consonants that Pop and Creak:** **p'**-’ilp’íl red, **t'**-mít’ip elderberry, **k'**-sík’em horse, **c'**-c’éew’cew ghost, **q'**-ciq’áamqal dog, **m'**-tim’íne heart, **n'**-tin’úun male mountain sheep, **w'**-w’áaw’a fish hook, **y'** tíy’et laughter, **l'** hamól’ic cute.

**Letters not included in the nimipuutímt spelling system:** R D F G I P V Z REVISED 8 21 07

**Kinship Terms:**

“All our relations”		<b>’óykaloo núunim himyúume</b>
“This is my family”		<b>kíi híiwes ’iinim ne’xe’éce</b>
Father	(refer to him as)	<b>píst</b>
Dad	(address him as)	<b>tóota’</b>
Paternal grandpa	(refer to him as)	<b>qaláca’c</b>
Paternal grandpa	(address him as)	<b>qaláca’</b>
Paternal grandma	(refer to her as)	<b>’éele’c</b>
Paternal grandma	(address her as)	<b>’éele’</b>
Paternal uncle	(refer to him as)	<b>píimx̂</b>
Paternal uncle	(address him as)	<b>méqe’</b>
Paternal aunt	(refer to her as)	<b>píisis</b>
Paternal aunt	(address her as)	<b>ĉica’</b>
older brother/older male cousin (males & females, refer to him as)		<b>píiyep</b>
older bro/older male cuz (males & females, address him as)		<b>yáaca’</b>
younger brother/younger male cousin (males, refer to him as)		<b>’ásqap</b>
younger bro/younger male cuz (males, address him as)		<b>’ácqa</b>
younger sister/younger female cousin (males, refer to her as)		<b>qánis</b>
younger sis/younger female cuz (males, address her as)		<b>qáni</b>
older/younger, sister/female cousin (males & females, refer to her as)		<b>péhet</b>

older/younger, sister/female cousin (males, address her as)		<b>'éeks</b>
Mother	(refer to her as)	<b>píke</b>
Mom	(address her as)	<b>'iice'</b>
Maternal grandpa	(refer to him as)	<b>piláqa'c</b>
Maternal grandpa	(address him as)	<b>piláqa'</b>
Maternal grandma	(refer to her as)	<b>qáaca'c</b>
Maternal grandma	(address her as)	<b>qáaca'</b>
Maternal uncle	(refer to him as)	<b>píitx̂</b>
Maternal uncle	(address him as)	<b>táqa'</b>
Maternal aunt	(refer to her as)	<b>péeqex</b>
Maternal aunt	(address her as)	<b>qéeqe'</b>
older sister/older female cousin (males & females, refer to her as)		<b>péhet</b>
older sis/older female cuz (males & females, address her as)		<b>néene'</b>
younger brother/younger male cousin (females, refer to him as)		<b>péekt</b>
younger bro/younger male cuz (females, address him as)		<b>nîpe</b>
younger sister/younger female cousin (females, refer to her as)		<b>'ácip</b>
younger sis/younger female cuz (females, address her as)		<b>'áyi</b>

My father	<b>na'tóot</b>
Your father	<b>'i'mtóot</b>
My paternal grandpa	<b>na'qalác</b>
Your paternal grandpa	<b>'i'mqalác</b>
My paternal grandma	<b>ne'él</b>
Your paternal grandma	<b>'i'méel</b>
My paternal uncle	<b>ne'méx̂</b>
Your paternal uncle	<b>'i'mméx̂</b>
My paternal aunt	<b>na'cíic</b>
Your paternal aunt	<b>'i'msíis</b>
My older brother/My older male cousin (males & females both use this word)	<b>na'yáac</b>
Your older brother/your older male cousin (males & females both use this word)	<b>'i'myáac</b>
My younger brother/My younger male cousin (males use this word)	<b>'in'másqap</b>
Your younger brother/Your younger male cousin (males use this word)	<b>'i'másqap</b>
My younger sister/My younger female cousin (males use this word)	<b>'inimqánis</b>
Your younger sis/Your younger female cuz (males use this word)	<b>'imqánis</b> <u>or</u> <b>'imimqánis</b>
My older sister/My older female cousin (males use this word)	<b>'inméeks</b>
Your older sister/Your older female cousin (males use this word)	<b>'iméeks</b>

My mom	<b>ne'íic</b>
Your mom	<b>'i'míis</b>
My maternal grandpa	<b>na'pláx̂</b>
Your maternal grandpa	<b>'ipláx̂</b>
My maternal grandma	<b>na'qáac</b>
Your maternal grandma	<b>'i'mqáas</b>
My maternal uncle	<b>na'táx̂</b>
Your maternal uncle	<b>'i'mtáx̂</b>
My maternal aunt	<b>ne'qéex̂</b>
Your maternal aunt	<b>'i'mqéex̂</b>
My older sister/My older female cousin (males & females both use this word)	<b>ne'nic</b>
Your older sister/Your older female cousin (males& females both use this word)	<b>'i'mnis</b>
My younger brother/My younger male cousin (females use this word)	<b>'inípekt</b>
Your younger brother/Your younger male cousin (females use this word)	<b>'ipéekt</b>
My younger sister/My younger female cousin (females use this word)	<b>'in'mácip</b>
Your younger sister/your younger female cousin (females use this word)	<b>'i'mácip</b>



## Wildlife

(Sources: Nez Perce Elders and H. Aoki *Nez Perce Dictionary* 1994.)

### Ungulates

- |     |                                       |   |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1.  | 'black-tailed doe'                    | <b>ye'emes</b>                          |
| 2.  | 'buffalo'                             | <b>qoq'aalx̄</b>                        |
| 3.  | 'bull elk'                            | <b>wewúkye</b>                          |
| 4.  | 'cow elk'                             | <b>tasiipx</b>                          |
| 5.  | 'deer'                                | <b>'imes</b>                            |
| 6.  | 'elk calf'                            | <b>qe'éyix</b>                          |
| 7.  | 'female mountain sheep'               | <b>hiyéete</b>                          |
| 8.  | 'male mountain sheep'                 | <b>tin'úun</b>                          |
| 9.  | 'moose'                               | <b>sáaslaqs</b>                         |
| 10. | 'mule deer buck', 'black-tailed buck' | <b>téewisiin</b>                        |
| 11. | 'spotted fawn'                        | <b>tatx</b>                             |
| 12. | 'white-tailed buck'                   | <b>tatáp'ay</b> or <b>tip'ítewisiin</b> |
| 13. | 'yearling fawn'                       | <b>mu'pc</b>                            |

### Rodents and kin

- |    |                   |                |
|----|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. | 'beaver'          | <b>táxcpol</b> |
| 2. | 'chipmunk'        | <b>mácqoy</b>  |
| 3. | 'ground hog'      | <b>céexcem</b> |
| 4. | 'ground squirrel' | <b>tátlo</b>   |
| 5. | 'mouse'           | <b>láaqac</b>  |
| 6. | 'muskrat'         | <b>páptic</b>  |
| 7. | 'porcupine'       | <b>sác'as</b>  |

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 8. 'rabbit' (cottontail) | <b>héey'uxc</b> |
| 9. 'rat'                 | <b>wísii</b>    |
| 10. 'tree squirrel'      | <b>cíلمي</b>    |

Carnivores

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 'badger'           | <b>síiki'</b>     |
| 2. 'black bear'       | <b>yáaka'</b>     |
| 3. 'bobcat'           | <b>qéhep</b>      |
| 4. 'cougar'           | <b>k'oy'am'á</b>  |
| 5. 'coyote'           | <b>'iceyéeye</b>  |
| 6. 'fox'              | <b>tilípe'</b>    |
| 7. 'grizzly bear'     | <b>âáâaac</b>     |
| 8. 'otter'            | <b>qiláasâ</b>    |
| 9. 'raccoon'          | <b>k'ayk'áyoc</b> |
| 10. 'skunk'           | <b>tísqe'</b>     |
| 11. 'weasel'          | <b>c'ííílee</b>   |
| 12. 'wildcat,' 'lynx' | <b>wípwip</b>     |
| 13. 'wolf'            | <b>hímiin</b>     |

Payóopayoo/birds

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 'bald eagle'    | <b>saqantáayâ</b> |
| 2. 'barn owl'      | <b>k'apk'ápnó</b> |
| 3. 'bat'           | <b>'úuc'uc</b>    |
| 4. 'blackbird'     | <b>q'ósq'os</b>   |
| 5. 'blue grouse'   | <b>tuy'é</b>      |
| 6. 'burrowing owl' | <b>papóo</b>      |

- |     |  |                         |
|-----|--|-------------------------|
| 1.  | 'Canadian goose'   | <b>yáay'ax</b>          |
| 2.  | 'crow'   | <b>'áa'a</b>            |
| 3.  | 'golden eagle'   | <b>wééptes</b>          |
| 4.  | 'grouse' (sharp tailed)  | <b>q'áâno</b>           |
| 5.  | 'hummingbird'  | <b>taamámno</b>         |
| 6.  | 'killdeer'   | <b>ciyíititit</b>       |
| 7.  | 'kingfisher'   | <b>t'ulúulux</b>        |
| 8.  | 'magpie'   | <b>'éek'ex</b>          |
| 9.  | 'meadowlark'   | <b>qócqoc</b>           |
| 10. | 'mourning dove'  | <b>wíitel'u</b>         |
| 11. | 'osprey'   | <b>sáaâsaâ</b>          |
| 12. | 'owl' (perhaps a horned owl)   | <b>palâóockin'</b>      |
| 13. | 'raven'  | <b>qóoqoâ</b>           |
| 14. | 'red-tailed hawk'  | <b>qáya</b>             |
| 15. | 'robin'  | <b>wíispoâpoâ</b>       |
| 16. | 'screech owl'  | <b>saâlatámo</b>        |
| 17. | 'duck' ( <u>Oops!</u> This was read as 'suck' on the CD because of a typo, but it is now corrected.) | <b>qéetqet</b>          |
| 18. | 'swan'   | <b>wetyétmes</b>        |
| 19. | 'turkey'   | <b>siitín</b>           |
| 20. | 'water ouzel', 'dipper bird'   | <b>máam'ac q'óoq'oâ</b> |

## Insects:

1. Ant	<b>támsoy</b>
2. Flea,	<b>háaslam</b>
3. Fly: house fly	<b>ciilyex</b>
4. Fly: deer fly, gnat, ( <b>Oops!</b> gnat was first read on the CD as “not”, but it sounds like “nat” and not “not”.)	<b>ciilyexciilyex</b>
5. Fly: elk fly,	<b>lexluyléxluy</b>
6. Fly: horsefly,	<b>léxluy</b>
7. Gnat,	<b>típtip</b>
8. Grasshopper,	<b>qéhel</b>
9. Grasshopper, big	<b>c’ixc’ikil’es</b>
10. Grasshopper, “locust”	<b>t’éxt’eê</b>
11. Insect:something that is “between worm and insect”.A bug in dried meat EPW.	<b>k’álk’al</b>
12. Beetle (EPW, hornet HW,)	<b>t’iit’inu</b>
13. Leech,	<b>wíîwíî</b>
14. Louse:body louse,	<b>pipéeê</b>
15. Louse: head louse,	<b>pîle</b>
16. Maggot,	<b>móola’</b>
17. Mosquito,	<b>wáawa</b>
18. Mosquito,	<b>sipéetiptip</b>
19. Mosquito,	<b>hawáawa</b>
20. Nerve-winged insect (HW)	<b>kiyéwkiyew</b>
21. No-see-ums	<b>hexnéey’hexney’</b>
22. Snail,	<b>q’alapóoya</b>
23. Beetle, a very small kind of scarabs,	<b>“pitícin”</b>
24. “Snail”,	<b>“talacítit”</b>
25. spider	<b>êlêlúuye</b>
26. tick: wood tick,	<b>písê</b>
27. Worm (white color with a large head)	<b>séhey</b>
28. Bumblebee	<b>qaasí’</b>
29. Yellow jacket	<b>’alatálo</b>
30. Butterfly	<b>léeplep</b>
31. Cricket, black,	<b>cálcax</b>
32. Cricket, large and green cricket,	<b>saaxáxano</b>
33. Daddy longleg	<b>wayac’aynwáayac’ayn</b>

Fish/other aquatics:

1. 'blueback salmon', 'sockeye salmon' **q'óyâc**
2. 'brook trout' **píickatyo**
3. 'chinook salmon' **nacó'â**
4. 'eel' **héesu**
5. 'river sucker' **múq'uc**
6. 'stealhead' **héeeyey**
7. 'sturgeon' **qíileâ**

Reptiles:

1. 'lizard' tadpole, alligator **'ap'ap'áap'ap**
2. 'rattlesnake' **wééâpus**
3. 'snake' **páayos**
4. 'turtle' **'áacix**

Domestic animals:

1. 'cat' **pícpic**
2. 'dog' **ciq'áamqal**
3. 'horse' **sík'em**
4. 'monkey,' 'ape' **píicqu'yet**
5. 'mule' **mólaa**
6. 'pig' **hoq'hóoq'**

# Earth Terms & Plant Names

## Earth Terms:

cloud/sky	'ipeliikt
earth/land/ground	wéetes
fire	'áala
lake, pond, bay, "ocean"	'iwéetem
mountain	méeêsem
ocean	'eteyéekuus
river	píik'un
shooting star (Dodecatheon jeffreyi)	qocqócnim níickaw'
sky (HW –firmament-The vault or expanse of the heavens; the sky.)	'ilskáwt
star	xic'iyu
sun/moon	húisemtúks
water	kúus

## Plants:

balsam fir	patóosway
bear grass <i>Xerophyllum tenax</i>	yéey'e
bitterroot	lit'áan
blackberry	céeqet
buttercup western <i>Ranunculus occidentalis</i>	'iceyéeyenm sílu
cactus, plains pricklypear	'ístis
camas	qém'es
carrot, wild carrot	cawíitx
cattail, tule <i>Typha latifolia</i>	tók'o
celery, indian celery	'iic'is
celery, wild	wew'iimn
cottonwood tree	qápqap
cous cous medicine root	qawsqáws
cous, biscuit root	laqáptat
cous, fresh	qáamsit
cous, peeled and dried	qáaws
dogwood, willow	p'ip'láac
douglas fir	páaps
flower	láatis
grape	pik'umtíin

grape, oregon  
grass  
hail  
hay, timothy; phleum pratense  
indian hemp  
lodgepole pine  
mint some sort of mint that grows along the river  
moss green dry moss on rocks  
moss on water  
moss pine tree moss  
mountain tea (Labrador) *Ledum glandulosum*  
mushroom, a kind of  
mushroom, bracket fungus on cottonwood trees  
mushroom, cream or white in color  
mushroom, poisonous (HW), toadstool  
nettles, *Urtica Iyallil*  
oak, poison oak  
peppermint  
pine mountain white pine *pinus monticola*  
pine ponderosa *pinus ponderosa*  
rose  
sage river sage  
sagebrush  
sunflower  
syringa, mock orange *Philadelphus lewisii*  
tamarack, western larch *larix occidentalis*  
thistle, canadian thisle, fir needle  
thistle, elk *Cirsium scariosum*  
tree  
waterlilyn, *Nuphar*  
weed that grows in wet meadows, about three feet tall  
weed  
wild tobacco, kinnickinick  
willow *Salix*  
yarrow, western

**q'iq'étq'iq'et**  
**c'ixc'ix**  
**téemul**  
**tímeti**  
**qéemu**  
**qalámqalam**  
**heqéeqe**  
**'aláaâos**  
**âéâus**  
**hóopop**  
**písku**  
**lílps**  
**híp'ew**  
**téhet**  
**pe'túuqes**  
**wet'etwéet'et**  
**q'alamtitq'á**  
**tiwantíiwan**  
**séeysey**  
**láaqa**  
**táamsas**  
**heqéeqe**  
**qémqem**  
**páasâ**  
**siséeqiy**  
**kimîle**  
**cíckax**  
**títux**  
**tewlíikt**  
**sáaslaqs**  
**táaqo'**  
**leâléeqs**  
**hotóoto**  
**táâs**  
**wapalwáapal**