

Vol. 1

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Nimipuutímt

Nez Perce Language Pledge, Greetings, Weekdays, Seasons, Months/Weather Terms, Housing Terms, Animals, People, Food, Meal Terms, Meal Time Prayer, Words heard in prayer, Conversation centered around the house & Food Terms, Commands, Power Tools, Niimíipuu Action Verbs, Activity Words, Names of Niimíipuu Chiefs, Warriors & Women, ABC's

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Nimipuutíimt – 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.)

hitémeneewit, 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.)

Greetings

Good morning_____ **ta’c méeywi**
Good afternoon_____ **ta’c haláxp**
Good evening_____ **ta’c kuléewit**
Good night_____ **ta’c cik’éetin’**

Weekdays

Monday_____ **halxpáawinaq’it**
Tuesday_____ **lepítkaa’awn/ (’iitqo’ - or) lepítipakaa’awn**
Wednesday_____ **mitáatkaa’awn/mitáatipakaa’awn**
Thursday_____ **píileptkaa’awn/píileptipakaa’awn**
Friday_____ **páaxatkaa’awn/páaxatipakaa’awn**
Saturday_____ **halxpawit’áasx**
Sunday_____ **halxpáawit**

Seasons

Winter_____ **’ením’**
Spring_____ **’elwéht**
Summer_____ **táyam**
Fall_____ **sexním’**
Summer_____ **táyam**

Months/Year:

Month(s), Sun, Moon_____ **híisumtuks**
January_____ **wilúupup**
February_____ **’alamat’áal**
March_____ **lafíit’al (or) latiit’áal**
April_____ **qeqit’ál (or) qeqiit’áal**
May_____ **’apa’áal**
June_____ **tustimasáat’al**
July_____ **q’oyxc’áal**
August_____ **wa’wama’ayq’áal**
September_____ **pik’unma’ay’q’áal**
October_____ **hóopl’al**
November_____ **sexliw’ál**
December_____ **ha’óqoy**

Year _____	'inmíiwit
<u>Weather Terms</u>	
It's cold _____	'icwéey's híiwes
It's warm _____	lu'úq'ic híiwes
It's hot _____	'iyéq'is híiwes
It's sunny _____	hiyk'íwce
It's cloudy _____	t'iipít híiwes
It's windy _____	hahátyaca
It's raining _____	hiwéeqise
It's a clear sky _____	haykáat híiwes
It is hailing _____	téemul hitqûkse
It is thundering _____	hitéemqiqeykse
It is lightning _____	hitaqasa'yóoâotsa
It is foggy _____	hi'péecese
It is muddy _____	sitq'íin

Housing Items:

car _____	ipnewlekee'ykéi
telephone _____	cewcewín'es
door _____	pîskis
desk/Table _____	tíim'enwees
chair _____	wixsi'likéecet'es
rug _____	tuléetekey
land/earth _____	wéetes
pillow _____	wéwcetes
bed _____	pinmíikees
picture _____	cepéelep'tet
book/paper _____	tíim'es
store _____	'itam'yáanwaas
pen/pencil _____	tíim'enes

Animal names

Deer_____	'imes
Fawn_____	tatx (general term)
Buffalo_____	qoq'áalx̂
Horse_____	sík'em
Appaloosa_____	máamin
Eagle (golden eagle)_____	wéeptes
Bald Eagle_____	saq'antáayx̂
Grizzly Bear_____	x̂áx̂aac
Bear_____	yáaka'
Wolf_____	hímiin
Wildcat_____	wípwap
Elk_____	wewúkye (male)

PEOPLE:

Helper_____	wapayataw'áat
Teacher_____	sepehitemenew'éet
Student_____	hitemenew'éet
Children_____	mamáy'ac
Boy (s)_____	háacwal/haháacwal
Boy (teenager)_____	te'éx̂et/tite'e'x̂et (pl)
Girl (s)_____	pit'iin'/pipitíin' (pl)
Girl (teenager)_____	tim'áay'/titm'áay' (pl)
Man/Men_____	háama/hahám
Woman/Women_____	'áayat/ha'áayat

Food

Salt_____	kéetwen'es
Pepper_____	pisáq'is
Sugar_____	cicyúk'is
Potato_____	lapatáat
Corn_____	cat'o'x̂swáako's
Peas_____	katamnowáako's
Carrots_____	cawitxwáako's

Bread_____	'ipééx
Fry Bread_____	tasq̄in 'ipééx
Butter_____	qahásnim wéey'ikt
Fish_____	cúuy'em
Salmon_____	nacó'x̄
Meat_____	nukt
Rice_____	seheywéeku's
Cake_____	tam'áamin'
Pie_____	cepéepyuxtin'
Huckleberries_____	cemíitx
Strawberries_____	nicka'níicka'
Water_____	kúus
Milk_____	qáhas
Tea_____	p̄isqu
Coffee_____	lálx
Drink_____	'ipnéekuut (drinking)
Spoon_____	sóox̄
Fork_____	cóockaka's
Knife_____	wálc
Cup_____	'ipnéekuut'es
Plate_____	h̄iik'ay

Meal Terms:

Did you eat?_____	wéet hipsáaqa?
Yes, I want food._____	'eehé! 'iin wéewluqse hípt
Give me._____	p̄ii'nim
Give me that._____	p̄ii'nim yóx̄/'in̄im yóx̄.
Pass around_____	sepel'q̄il̄in
Pass me the. _____	sepel'q̄il̄innim yóx̄.
Hand me that._____	'inéhnem yóx̄____.
I am eating_____	hip̄ise
'satisfied, to eat just enough' _____	hipst'úuy'
I am satisfied_____	hipst'úuyce
'to get full, eat too much' _____	teqeléeks

I am full _____	teqel'éeakse
I am thirsty _____	qi'yáawca
Do you want water? _____	wéet wéewluqse kúus
Yes I want water. Thank you. _____	'eehé kúus wéewluqse! Qe'ciyéw'yew'.
I want water. _____	kúus wéewluqse
'breakfast' _____	méeytipt
'lunch' _____	halâpatípt
'dinner' _____	kulewíitipt
'night snack' _____	téew'hípt
'sack lunch' _____	isáaps ('iitqo' - or) káawtips

Meal Time Prayer:

*"Thank you Our Creator for this food you made for our bodies and for giving us life.
This we want mercy, we ask in your son's name. Thank you."*

**qe'ciyéw'yew' núunim hanyaw'áat kii hipt 'ee néecnisem ciláakt'ayn sapóoq'is wíit'es.
kii ku'ús yiyéewn 'inéhmuucix 'imim miya'ácpa wen'íkitpe qe'ciyéw'yew'.**

Words heard in prayer

Ancestors _____	titílu (elders)
Creator _____	hanyaw'áat
Day _____	léeheyn
Elder(s) _____	téeq'is/titéeq'is (senior, superior, boss)
Guardian Spirit _____	wéeyekin
Heaven _____	'éey'sniwees ("place of happiness")
Heaven _____	'aqámkinikaay ("high region")
Heaven _____	'ilaká'wispa ("land of brightness")
Our Father _____	núunim píst
Pray _____	'ipnúuyiyewkse yiyéew (humble oneself)
Prayer _____	talapóosa (religion, worship)
Relations _____	himíyu
Thankful _____	lilóoy (be thankful)
Thank you _____	qe'ciyéw'yew'

Conversation centered around the house & Food Terms

Corrections made on 11/26/01 Adult & 11/27 Employee Nimípuutimt Class

This is my house.	Kii'u wées 'iinim 'iniit.
It is good you came.	Tá'c 'ee páayn.
It is good to see each other.	Tá'c kiiye piihekin.
Haven't seen you for a long time.	Leehéy wéet'u 'ee hékin.
Where did you come from?	Miníix páayn?
Where are you from?	Miníix wées?
This is my husband.	Kii wées háama.
This is my wife.	Kii wées 'iwéepne.
This is my child.	Kii wées miyá'c.
These are my children.	Kii wées mamáy'ac.
Have you eaten?	Wéet hipsáaqa?
next room, next door, next house	Nexsúut.
The dining room is in the next room.	Nexsúut hiiwes hipinwées.
This is the kitchen. (Food making place.)	Kii hiiwes hípt haníinwaas.
That is the toilet.	Yóx hiiwes 'áatinwaas.
Now the food is done.	Wáaqo' hípt hínaq'is.
Now let's eat.	Wáaqo' kiiye hipsiix.
Did you wash your hands?	Wéet wapa'áyks?

Did you wash your face?	Wéet 'ipsimáat'asaqa?
Hurry wash your face!	Háamti'c wapa'áyx!
I'll pray.	'iin 'inúuyiyewkse.
You pray!	'iim 'imúuyiyewx!
Let's all pray.	Wáaqo' kiiye nemúuyiyewksix.
This is your napkin.	Kii 'ee we hímsku'uye'ayn.
Let's eat breakfast now.	Wáaqo' kiiye méeytipsix.
Let's eat dinner/lunch now.	Wáaqo' kiiye hálxpatipsix.
Let's eat supper now.	Wáaqo' kiiye kuléewitipsix.
What are we eating?	'itúune kenm 'eepsíix?
What are you eating? (pl.)	'itúune 'eepsíix?
Do you want pie?	Wéet cepéepyuûtin, wéewluqse?
Eat quickly!	Háamti'c hípx!
Eat slow!	'i'yéwki hípx!
Eat lots!	'iléxni hípx!
Thank you. Now, I am full.	Qe'ci'yéw'yew'. Wáaqo' teqeléeks.
Thank you, I ate well and am full.	Qe'ci'yéw'yew'. Tá'c híps kaa teqeléeks.
Now, I am staying over.	Wáaqo' wéewtukse.
Do you want to spend the night?	Wéet wéewtukse?

Commands:

Singular:

Plural:

Let us begin. _____	wáaqo' kiiye 'úuyisix
'sit down' _____	wīsil'íix _____ wīsil'íkitx
Have a seat there! _____	koná wīsil'íix!
Sit right here. _____	kíne wīsil'íix.
'stand up' _____	wiséekéy'x _____ huuxélekéy'kitx
More than one person stand up in honor. _____	wiséekéy'kitx
(Use this word when honoring more than one person.)	
'jump' _____	weec'éyn _____ weec'éykitx
'walk' _____	'ipsqíkey'x _____ 'ipsqíkey'kitx
'laugh' _____	fí'yey _____ fí'yetx
'turn around' _____	'imúucililpx _____ 'imemúucililpitx
'be still' _____	'imóotalx _____ 'imamóotalkitx
Be quiet! _____	'imóosawx _____ 'imamóosawkitx
Listen! _____	mic'yóōxo'y _____ mic'yóōxo'tx
Listen to me! _____	mic'yóōxo'm _____ mic'yóōxo'mtx
'go sleep' _____	pinmíix _____ pinmíikitx
'wake up' _____	wáaqin _____ wáaqitx
Go outside! _____	kúy 'éemtkex _____ kúutx 'éemtkex
Let's play! _____	kéepe xeeléewis
Say it again! _____	héenek'e hín
Say what I say! _____	hítx kex manáa 'iin híce
Raise your hand! _____	tokapaláhsay 'ípsus
Wait! _____	qó'c wéeye
Stop (to stop doing something/no longer) _____	wéec'u'
Let's go now. _____	wáaqo' kiiye kusíix
Go away! _____	wáy'at kuuy
Come in! _____	'áacim
Go look for it! _____	'e'péew'i _____ 'e'péew'itx
Go to bed! _____	pinmíikte' _____ pinmíiktetx
Let's eat! _____	kée pe hips

Power Tools

What is your name? _____	manáa wées wen'íikt (manáa wen'íikise)
My name is? _____	'íinim wen'íikt wées ('íin wen'íikise)
Who is that? _____	'isíi híiwes yóâ
How are you? _____	manáa wées
How are all of you? _____	manáa wisíix 'óykaloo
I am fine. _____	'íin wées tá'c
I am not well. _____	wéet'u tá'c wées
I'm sick. _____	k'óomayca
Can I go to the bathroom? _____	wéeteex kiyó'qa 'áatinwaasx
How is it said in Nez Perce? _____	minma'í hinó'qa nimipuufímtki
What are you doing? _____	manáa kúuse
Where are you going? _____	mípx kúuse
Yes _____	'eehé
No _____	wéet'u
How did you do? _____	manáa kúye
I don't know. _____	kú'nu
I know. _____	cúukwece
I don't know. _____	wéet'u cúukwece
Do you remember? _____	wéet timíipn'ise
Yes, I remember it. _____	'eehé 'etmíipn'ise
No, I forgot. _____	wéet'u titóolasa
Do you have a question? (singular) _____	wéet 'itúu séepn'it wées
Do you have a question? (plural) _____	wéet 'itúu séepn'it wisíix
That's right. _____	yóâ c'a'á
What time is it? _____	mác liklíin híiwes
Now. _____	wáaqo'
When? _____	mawá
What/How? _____	manáa
Where? _____	míne
I found it! _____	'aw'yáaqin
Over there. _____	yóâ koná
Right here. _____	kíi kíne That's all! _____ yóâ kálo'

Nimipuutímt Action Verbs

Singular:

I'm itching. _____ **ceyéy'pce**

I'm happy. _____ **'éey'sce'**

I'm sad. _____ **'éetxewce**

I'm making. _____ **haniisa**

I'm dreaming. _____ **hiwéekse**

I'm bleeding. _____ **kike'tiise**

I'm bleeding. _____ **kiké't wéelece**

I'm having a nose bleed. **'ilpsúusce**

I'm happy. (happy to be) **lilóoyca**

I'm thinking. _____ **nekise**

Blow your nose! _____ **siit kúy** (Say to older kids & up.)

Blow your nose. _____ **mál kúy** (Say to infants/kids.)

Nasal mucus/snot. _____ **siit**

(NPT dictionary says "to blow one's nose", but elders said it is more like "snot".)

I'm blowing my nose. ___ **siit kúuse**

I'm blowing my nose. _____ **siitce**

(This is on pg. 650 in NPT dictionary, but use the above instead. Do not use this one.)

I'm snoring. _____ **táwxanca**

3rd Person Singular/Plural-1st person pl.:

He/she is itching. _____ **hiceyéy'pce**

He/she is happy. _____ **he'éey'sce'**

He/she is sad. _____ **he'etxewce**

He/she is making. _____ **háaniisa**

He/she is dreaming. _____ **hiiwéekse**

We are dreaming. _____ **hiwéeksix**

They are dreaming. _____ **hiiwéeksix**

He/she is bleeding. _____ **hikike'tiise**

He/she is bleeding. _____ **kiké't 'ewéelece**

He/she is having a nose bleed. **hilp'súusce**

He/she is happy. _____ **hil'lóoyca**

He/she is thinking. _____ **hinekise**

He/she is blowing his/her nose. **siit hikúuse**

He/she is blowing their nose. **hisitce**

He/she is snoring. _____ **hitáwxanca**

I'm yawning. _____ **tewqiséeqce**

My nose is running. _____ **siit wéelece**

My nose is running. _____ **siitfiise**

I'm lonely. _____ **tilláapca**

I forgot. (Forgetting.) _____ **titóolasa**

I'm laughing. _____ **tiy'ese**

I'm sneezing. _____ **'apsáca**

I'm choking. _____ **wayáayqsa**

I'm coughing. _____ **oâa'oâáaca**

I'm crying. _____ **wíice**

I'm running. _____ **wiléeke'ykse**

I'm busy with work. _____ **xeléeleyce**
(To be busy with work.).

I'm joking. _____ **xeleytimse**

I'm mad. _____ **xiic'emce**

I'm smiling. _____ **xileyce**

He/she is yawning. _____ **hitewqiséeqce**

His/her nose is running. _____ **siit 'ewéelece** (or use)

His/her nose is running. _____ **hisiitfiise**

He/she is lonely. _____ **hitilláapca**

He/she forgot. _____ **hittóolasa**

He/she is laughing. _____ **hitiy'ese**

He/she is sneezing. _____ **ha'ápsaca**

He/she is choking. _____ **hiwayáayq'sa**

He/she is coughing. _____ **hioâa'oâáaca.**

He/she is crying. _____ **hiwíice**

He/she is running. _____ **hiwléeke'ykse**

He/she is busy with work. **hixeléeleyce**

They are busy with work. **hiixeléeleycix**

He/she is joking. _____ **hixeleytimse**

He/she is mad. _____ **hixiic'emce**

He/she is smiling. _____ **hixileyce**

Activity Words

Dance!	_____	weecée (verb VS) (command)
Dance	_____	weyéecet (noun)
Dance, circle	_____	k'uppîpk'uppi wéecet
Dance, owl dance	_____	palxóockin' weyéecet
Dance, rabbit dance	_____	hey'úuxc wéecet
Dance, swan dance	_____	ciléecit
Dance, war dance	_____	páaxam VC
Drum	_____	kiwkiwíl'ec N VC
Drum	_____	wekiwkiwce V VC (to drum)
Ball	_____	poxpok'ála
Ballgame	_____	poxpok'álii (to play a)
Ballgame	_____	poxpok'álit
Guess	_____	t'áwn (at stick games) *
Guess “inside”	_____	híipey t'áwn (in stick game)
Guess “outside”	_____	pálq'allay (in stick game)
Guess right and win stakes	_____	c'iil
Guess wrong in a stick game	_____	k'úuxstey
Elder(s)	_____	téeq'is/titéeq'is (senior, superior, boss)
Fishing net	_____	teqé's (dip net)
Lake	_____	'iwéetem N
Making	_____	haniisa
to ride	_____	wéecese (e.g., a horse)
Song	_____	qillóowawya (for departing warriors/serenade songs) (hide)(to hit) They'd beat on the hide & sing.
Song	_____	wéeyekwe'npt (guardian spirit song)
Song	_____	we'nípt
to sing	_____	we'nípx
to speak	_____	c'iiqitx (plural)
Stick Games	_____	lóoxmit
Story	_____	titwáatit
Storytelling	_____	titwatináawit
Sweat house	_____	wistitám'o

Sweating_____	h̄item'yekse
Swim_____	siw̄ike'ykse (of humans)
Swim_____	teq'elúuse (bathe)
Tepee_____	coqóycoqoy
Tepee pole_____	tíwe
Tepee top_____	cóqoy
Tepee_____	teqéeê (rear part of)
Wallowa Mountains_____	wal'wáamaâs
Weaving_____	ken'w̄ise (e.g., corn husk bag)

Niimiipuu Chiefs, Warriors and Women

Red Grizzly Bear_____	Xáâac 'ilp'ilp
Yellow Wolf_____	H̄imiin maqs maqs (Hemene Moxmox)
White Bird_____	Piyóop'yoo âayâayx̄ (Peo peo Hih Hih)
Thunder Rolling Over The Mountains_____	Hinmatóoyalahtqit (Heinmot Tooyalakekt)
Flint Necklace (Chief Looking Glass - older)_____	'apáswahayqt (In books it is: Appushwahite.) In 1855 he said, "I want my hunting and fishing rights in the usual and accustomed places."
Chief Looking Glass (younger)_____	'elelimyetéqenin' – Wrapped in the wind (In books it is: allalimya takanin)
Chief Yellow Bull_____	cúuŋim maqsmáqs
Lean Elk – Poker <u>Joe</u> _____	wewúkye wasa'aw (wasaaw not a Nez Perce name)
Red Mountain (In Salish)_____	tux̄úulx̄ulc'ut (Spell change on 1-28-02. It was tuh̄úulhulc'ut)
Many Wounds_____	'ilexni 'éewteesin' (Ehlexni Ehtashin-Sam Lott)
Five Wounds_____	Pahqatos 'éewyeen
Rainbow_____	Wacamyos (Wahchumyus)
Bird Alightening_____	Piyóop'yoot'alikt (Peopeop Tholekt)
Dawn_____	Halxpawin'mi
Helping Another_____	Pinahwi'nonmáay
White Feather_____	Wéep̄tes âayâayx̄

(**He'téelikin** also sometimes written as **Ne'téelikin**, was not recorded on tape.)

Yóâ Kálo!
That's All!

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.

eeey = 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.

ɬ = 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: **léepɬep** – Butterfly.

q = The “back **k**” sounds close, but not exactly the same as the **k** in **ketchup**. Ex: **qéhep**-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.

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

ɣ̣ = The same as the above. The ɣ̣ 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: **B, D, F, G, J, R, V, Z**

REVISED 8-21-07