

A single word in Ichishkíin can translate an entire English sentence.

Person Marking

Throughout the grammar of the language, the expression of third person (translated into English as ‘s/he, him, her, his, her, hers, it, its, they, them, their, theirs’) follows a different pattern from first and second person (‘I, me, my, mine, you, your, yours, we, us, our, ours’). Third person is expressed with a prefix on the verb, whereas first and second person are represented in a sentence by pronominal enclitics, special forms that appear as the second element in a sentence and may come before or after a verb, depending on its position in the sentence.

Third person prefixes

When the subject of a sentence is ‘he/she/it’ or ‘they’, this will be indicated with a **verb prefix**. Below are the two Ichishkíin person-marking prefixes that indicate that the subject of the sentence is third person singular or plural:

<i>i-</i>	is used if the subject of the sentence is singular: ‘he, she, it’ (often abbreviated here ‘s/he/it’)
<i>pa-</i>	is used if the subject of the sentence is plural: ‘they’
ie:	<i>ipnúsha</i> ‘s/he is sleeping’ <i>papnúsha</i> ‘they are sleeping’

If the verb begins with a vowel, a glottal stop follows the prefixes *i-* and *pa-* and precedes the verb root.

ie:	<i>i'ayíksha</i> ‘she/he is sitting’ <i>pa'ayíksha</i> ‘they are sitting’
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The prefix *i-* (he, she, it) and the glottal stop are sometimes left off in fast or informal speech if the verb begins in a vowel (usually *i*).

Plural animate/inanimate subjects

If the subject of a sentence is plural but *not human*, generally *i-* is used, even though the subject in the English translation is plural:

Mish aw kálux ipanátishamsh?
‘Are the blueback salmon coming upriver yet?’

If the subject is more than one human, animal or legendary being, *pa-* is used.

**A rule of thumb is that if the plural form of the subject noun is formed with the plural suffix -*ma* (*tínma* ‘people’, *áyatma* ‘women’, *kákyama* ‘birds, animals, creatures’) then use the plural agreement marker on the verb, as in the example below.

<i>míimi paawyáshatana áyatma</i>		
<i>míimi</i>	<i>pa-wyá-pshata-na</i>	<i>áyat-ma</i>
long.ago	3Pl.S-while.going-gather-PST	woman-Pl
‘long ago, women went along gathering’		

Clitics

- (1) Clitics follow the first word of the sentence, regardless of what that word is.
- (2) Clitics indicate subjects, objects, and possessors.
- (3) The set of clitics makes differentiations that are not made in English: you singular vs. you plural, inclusive we (we all) vs exclusive we (we but not you).
- (4) Several of the clitics have both full and reduced forms (long and short forms).

If the subject is I, you, or we, the marker that indicates the subject will be a **clitic**. Clitics attach to the end of the first word in the sentence, which is not necessarily the verb (the markers for ‘he/she/it’ and ‘they’ always attach to the verb).

-nash, -ash, -sh	‘I’
-nam, -am, -m	‘you’ (one person)
-pam	‘you all’ (more than one person)

These are new:

-na	‘we’ (includes speaker and hearer, inclusive, “we all”)
-natk OR -natash, -atash, -tash	‘we’ (includes speaker and others but not hearer, exclusive “we but not you”)

Áwna wínasha (aw = now)

Áwnatash wínasha