

Describing things using the verb *wa* (be)**Review: Location**

To show that something is a location in Sahaptin, the suffix *-pa* (loosely translated as ‘in, on, at, by’) is added to a noun and the verb *iwá* ‘it is, she is, he is’ is used:

- 1a. *wána* ‘river’
*iwá wána**pa*** ‘it is located at the river’
 river-Location
- 1b. *patát* ‘tree’
*patát**pa** iwá* ‘it is located at the tree’
 tree-Location
- 1c. *nít* ‘house’
*nít**pa** iwá* ‘it is located at the house’
 house-Location
2. *nít**pa** iwá áyat* (or *áyat iwá nít**pa***)
 house-Location is woman
 ‘The woman is at the house.’

If speakers want to be more specific, they can add a word:

- 2a. *áyat iwá **asht** nít**pa***
The woman is inside the house

The question to ask about where something is:

Minán iwá _____?

Description:

You can use *iwá* (s/he, it is) in a sentence to describe something:

Iwá ts’muuy.

Kayx iwá.

K’p s iwá.

Alu ’át iwá chiishpamá.

Alu ’át iwá m x shpyat.

K’usi iwá ka’aw.

Possession:

1. When you are describing something that belongs to or is part of a particular person or animal (singular), use the verb *áwa*.

Áwa nch'i amtíx.

His head is big / he has a big head

M x shpyat **áwa** wáwnakwshash.

Its body is green / It has a green body.

2. If you name the “owner” you need to add a suffix *-mí* or *-nmí* to the noun naming the “owner.”

These are STRESS-STEALING suffixes – they take the stress from the word they attach to.

-mí is used with words that end in a consonant or diphthong:

Átaw *áwa* yápaash shushaynsh**mí**

Amash**mí** *áwa* k'lii núshnu

-nmí is used with words that end in a vowel. The *_* indicates that whatever vowel ends the word becomes long!

K'usiin**mí** twin *áwa* káatnam.

Luts'aliin**mí** *áwa* chmaakw áchaash.