

Lesson of The Day

i = my -nasal form, prefixed before words that begin with a consonant.

im = my -m form, prefixed before words that begin with a vowel.

In the Choctaw language, there is no word for his, hers or its. This is called an unmarked subject. A conversation can begin with a named person but thereafter it will be understood who you are talking about in the context of the conversation. Additionally, rather than saying the name over and over, the person will be referred to as: this one who, that one who, this is the one that, or that is the one that, etc.

Joyce ipokni yvt pi hopona chi.

Joyce's grandmother will cook for us.

Ipokni hohchifo yvt Ann.

His/Her grandmother's name is Ann.

Word Meaning:

ipokni (eh-pok-ni) = his/her grandmother **yvt** (yaht) = subject marker

pi (p^{en}) = for us **ho** (h^{nh}) = question marker **chi** (ch^{en}) = him/her

hoponi (ho-po-ni) = to cook, changed to **hopona** for future tense

achi (ah-ch^{nh}) = future tense

Base words for kinship terms:

hvshki = mother **nakfi** = brother **pokni** = grandmother

iki = father **i tek** = sister **mafo** = grandfather

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