

# Lakota Basics and Postpositions

Week 1 -4 January 2014

## Themes:

Basics (Animals, Shapes, Colors, Weather, Food, Everyday Objects)

Post-Positions

link: <http://wotakuye.weebly.com/spring-2014-january.html>

## Basic Flashcards with Pictures

Download the following flashcards with basic words and sentences:



Animals & Basic Action Verbs <http://tinyurl.com/AnimalVerbs>

Shapes & Colors <http://tinyurl.com/ShapesColors>

Weather <http://tinyurl.com/LakotaWeather>

Food <http://tinyurl.com/LakotaFood>

Everyday Objects <http://tinyurl.com/LakotaEveryday>

## English prepositions vs Lakota postpositions

Prepositions links words together within sentences and usually indicate the temporal or spatial relationship of its object to the rest of the sentence. The object is the word/phrase that the preposition introduces. Look at the follow examples of prepositions that locate the object (the book) in time and space:

The book is on the table.

The book is beneath the table.

The book is leaning against the table.

The book is beside the table.

She held the book over the table.

She read the book during class.

As we know, Lakota word order is different from English so we can expect Lakota sentences to differ from the English ones above.. Look at the excerpt from a past handout which quickly recaps Lakota word order:

-----  
Lakota word order is different from English. Lakota word order is SOV (Subject Object Verb) while English is SVO (Subject Verb Object) This is the fancy way of saying Lakota's verb goes at the end of the sentence. Compare the following sentences:

Wičhíŋčala kiŋ šiná yámni yuhá.

The girl has three shawls.

LAKHÓTIYAPI	Wičhíŋčala girl	kiŋ the	šiná shawls	yámni three	yuhá. she has
ENGLISH	The	girl	has	three	shawls.

Notice that even the words “the girl” and “three shawls” are worded differently: “girl the/ wičhíŋčala kiŋ” and “shawls three/šiná yámni”.

-----  
As you may expect, Lakota does not have prepositions but POSTpositions, meaning that the word comes after the noun.

Look at the following comparison:

LAKĤÓTIYAPI	Wówapi kiŋ (book the)	wáglutapi kiŋ (table the)	akáŋl (on)	yaŋké. (it is sitting)
ENGLISH	The book	is sitting	on	the table

Make your own sentences using the verb yaŋká (to sit) and five simple postpositions (there are many more!):

akáŋl	on
oĥláthe	under
isákhíb	beside
itĥókab	in front of
ihákab	behind

Nouns:

wáglutapi	table	wiĥítenaškaŋškaŋ	television
wówapi	book	wiĥázo	pencil
wóžuha	bag	oákaŋke	chair
šiyútakaŋ	laptop	akáŋwowapi	desk
wíyatke	cup	oyúŋke	bed

Here are some examples:

Wówapi kiŋ wáglutapi kiŋ akáŋl yaŋké.

The book is sitting on the table.

Wóžuha kiŋ oyúŋke kiŋ oĥláthe yaŋké.

The bag is sitting under the bed.

Šiyútakaŋ kiŋ akáŋwowapi kiŋ isákhíb yaŋké.

The laptop is sitting beside the desk.

Wíĥázo kiŋ oákaŋke kiŋ itĥókab yaŋké.

The pencil is sitting in front of the chair.

Wíyatke kiŋ wóžuha kiŋ ihákab yaŋké.

The cup is sitting behind the bag.

Practice at home:

Try making simple sentences about the objects that are around you! Check out the [LakotaDictionary.org](http://LakotaDictionary.org) section devoted to the use of [Lakota Post-Positions](#). View the page to see many more examples of Lakota Post-Positions as you can even post your own sentences there.

## Extra Practice

Write sentences using the following pictures of animals. You can repeat some of the more common postpositions (i.e. beside or on). If you're having trouble with the postposition sentences, try just writing about what the animals are doing (i.e. Šúnjka nážij. The dog is standing).

Verb	He/She	English
nážij	nážij	to stand
yaŋká	yaŋké	to sit
nuŋwÁŋ	nuŋwé	to swim



khéya	turtle
maštíjčala	rabbit
nážij	to stand
yaŋké	to sit
isákhíb	beside

Some sentences to write without postpositions:

- The turtle is sitting/standing.
- The rabbit is standing.

---

---

---

Some sentences to write with post positions:

- The turtle is sitting next to the rabbit.
- The rabbit is sitting next to the turtle.

---

---

---

---



šiyútakaŋ	laptop
wichítegleğa	raccoon
nážiŋ	to stand
akáŋl	on

Sentences to write:

- The raccoon is standing.
- The raccoon is standing on the laptop.

---

---

---

---



šúŋka	dog
siínakhiŋte	rug
háŋpa	shoe
wágnawowapi	table
yaŋké	to sit
nážiŋ	to stand
isákhíb	beside
oǎhláthe	under/underneath

Sentences to write:

- The dog is sitting.
- The dog is sitting on the rug/next to the table/in front of the shoe/etc..
- The rug is sitting below the dog.
- The shoe is sitting behind the dog.

---

---

---

---



tǎhčšaŋkala	sheep
mathóska	polar bear
yaŋké	to sit
nážiŋ	to stand
isákhíb	beside

Sentences to write:

- The polar bear is sitting.
- The sheep is standing.
- The polar bear is sitting by the sheep.
- The sheep is sitting by the polar bear.

---

---

---

---



uŋkčéǵila tǎŋka	dinosaur
hoǵáŋ	fish
íŋyaŋ	rock
wathó	plant
nuŋwé	to swim
nážiŋ	to stand
iwáŋkab	above

Sentences to write:

- The fish is swimming next to the dinosaur.
- The dinosaur is standing next to the fish.
- The fish is swimming above the rock.

---

---

---

---

Vocabulary - [http://quizlet.com/\\_laxvg](http://quizlet.com/_laxvg)

English	Lakota	Conjugation
on	akáŋl	
under	oǎláthe	
beside	isákhíb	
in front of	ithókab	
behind	ihákab	
above	iwáŋkab	
table	wáglutapi	
book	wówapí	
bag	wóžuha	
laptop	šiyútakaŋ	
cup	wíyatke	
television	wičhítenaškaŋškaŋ	
pencil	wíčazo	
chair	oákaŋke	
desk	akáŋwowapi	
bed	oyúŋke	
to sit	yaŋká	1s: maŋké 2s: naŋké 1p: uŋyáŋkapi
to stand	nážiŋ	1s: nawážiŋ 2s: nayážiŋ 1p: naúŋžiŋpi

English	Lakota	Conjugation
to swim	nunwÁŋ	1s: wanúŋwe 2s: yanúŋwe 1p: unnúŋwanpi
turtle	khéya	
rabbit	maštíŋčala	
dog	šúŋka	
rug	sínakhiŋte	
shoe	háŋpa	
table	wágnawowapi	
raccoon	wičhítegleğa	
sheep	táhčšaŋkala	
polar bear	mathóska	
dinosaur	unkcéğila tšáŋka	
fish	hoğáŋ	
rock	íŋyaŋ	
plant	wathó	