

Ŏh-ares 'It's on top of (something)': Locative prefixes

Vocabulary

ŏhhŏmpetv table; to eat on

ŏhliketv chair; to sit on

ŏhtasketv to jump toward /jump onto

oh-vtetv to come toward

sŏmketv to disappear

ăksŏmketv to sink, disappear (in water)

ăk-eletv to drown

ăkyvkvpetv to walk (in water), wade

ŏh-ŏnvyetv to read

Prefixes are used in Creek to indicate different locations:

lîkes

he/she/it is sitting

ăklîkes

he/she/it is sitting in water / a low place

tăklîkes

he/she/it is sitting on the ground

ŏhlîkes

he/she/it is sitting on top of something

vlîkes

he/she/it is sitting next to / at

The prefix **v-** often indicates location on the side or underside of something.

Before vowels, the locative prefixes are pronounced **ăkk-**, **tăkk-**, **ŏhh-**, and **vh-**, but written here as **ăk-**, **tăk-**, **ŏh-**, and **vh-**:

ares

he/she/it is going around

ăk-ares

he/she/it is going around in water / a low place

tăk-ares

he/she/it is going around on the ground

ŏh-ares

he/she/it is going around on top of something

vhares

he/she/it is going around on (a wall)

Locative prefixes often have special meanings. With verbs indicating movement, for example, **ŏh-** means 'toward':

En cukŏn ŏhlĕtkes.

He's running toward his house.

Exercises

Ŏh-ŏnvkv: Cettŏ

Read the following and try to picture the snake and its position:

Cettöt wâkkes!

Cettö-lvstet wâkkes.

Cettö lvstēt wâkkes.

Cettö-lvstet äkwâkkes.

Cettö-lvstet lîkes.

Cettöt ares.

Cettöt lētkes.

Cettöt cessen hōmpes.

Cettö cvpâkkēt lîkes.

Cettö hecvš!

Hêcetskv?

Ehe, hêcis.

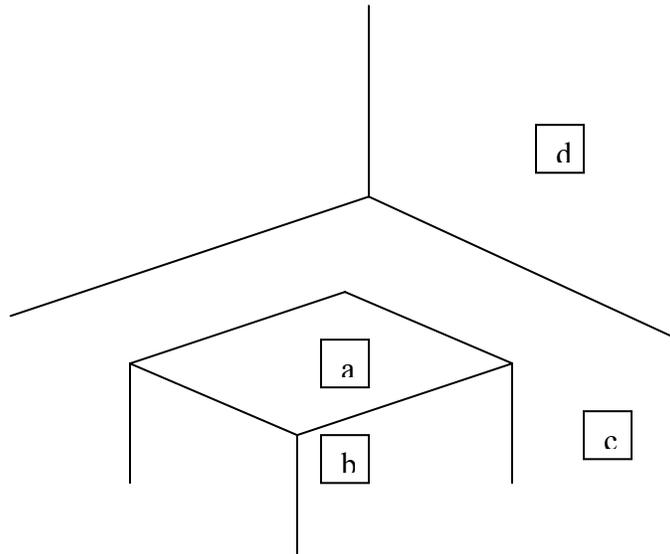
More on locative prefixes

Vocabulary

kvpe soap
öktahv sand
wēsö sassafras
Nettv-cakö-cuse Saturday
mähhe real, true
vncöme, vncöwe several

ēyökkofketv shirt
neskv-cukö store, shop
vhöpvketv to shove, push
mônkv so
(ö)safke sofkey

Below is a diagram showing how locative prefixes might be used in a room containing a piece of furniture like a table:



For location on the table (a), **öh-** is used: **öhlíkes** 'it's sitting on the table'. For location under the table (b), **äk-** is used: **äklíkes**. For location on the floor (c), **täk-** is used: **täklíkes**. Finally, for location on a wall (or for something on the underside of the table) (d), **v-** is used: **vlíkes**.

The same prefixes can be used for describing location on an animal like a dog or horse:



Here, **õh-** is used for location on the back or top of the head, **äk-** is used for location in the buttocks, groin, or eyes, and **v-** is used for location on the side or front.

Similarly, for a person, **õh-** is used for something on the head or top of the shoulders, **äk-** is used for location in the buttocks, groin, or eyes, and **v-** is used for location on sides (the cheeks, the front, etc.):



For a house, **õh-** is used for something on the roof, **v-** is used for something on the walls, and **täk-** is used for something inside or on the grounds outside.

Exercises

Ecke tempen likes 'He's sitting near his mother': Locative nouns

Vocabulary

yöpv behind

hömv (in) front

lecv under

önvpv (on) top

öhfvcv regarding, about

etenrvwv between

ofv inside

tempe near

fvccv toward

töpvrv behind

vrähkv for the purpose of

We've already seen that Creek uses prefixes on verbs to indicate location, as in **öhlîkes** 'it's sitting on (something)'. Sometimes Creek uses a special type of noun to indicate location, often in addition to the prefixes. These nouns are possessed like body parts or kin terms (**cvyöpv** 'behind me', **cvhömv** 'in front of me'), and so are called locative nouns. Here are some examples:

Poset etö yöpvn hûeres.

Neskv-cukö hömvn likes.

Äktöpv lecvn likes.

A cat is standing behind the tree.

He's sitting in front of the store.

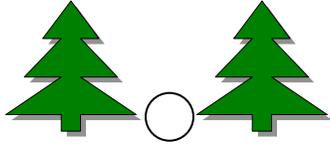
He's sitting under the bridge.

Notice that the locative noun phrase (underlined) ends in **-n**. The suffix **-n** is used in Creek for objects, manner adverbs, locations--for just about anything except subjects or possessors. Notice that the object of the locative noun (**etö** in the first sentence above) does not end in **-n**. That's because it's a possessor. It may seem strange to indicate location with nouns, but English sometimes does the same thing (*It's at my back / It's in back of me*).

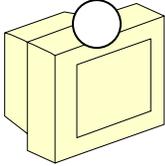
Exercises

1 Describe the location of the **pökkö** in the following pictures (you can use the English words *TV* and *computer*):

a

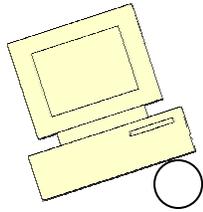


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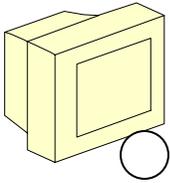


(Hint: you need a prefix here, too)

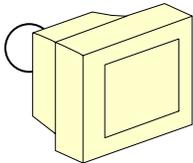
c



d



e



Lētket owv? 'Is he/she running?'

Vocabulary

cvtō rock, stone, iron, stove
etō wood, tree
hetutē snow, ice
hvrēssē moon
hvse sun; month
kōcōcvmpv star(s)

ōcē nut, pecan
ōskē rain
pvhe grass, hay
sutv sky
totkv fire

Statements end in **-es** or **-s**. These are made into questions by using **-v**:

letketv to run

stem: **letk-**, lgr. **lētk-**

Lētkes. He/She is running.

Lētkv? Is he/she running?

Lētket os. He/She is running.

Lētket owv? Is he/she running?

Here are the question forms of the person markers:

nesetv to buy

stem: **nes-**, lgr. **nēs-**

nēsiyv? am I buying?

nēsetskv? are you buying?

nēsv? is he/she buying?

nēseyv? are we buying?

nēsatskv? are y'all buying?

hecetv to look at

stem: **hec-**, fgr. **hêc-**

hêciyv? do I see?

hêcetskv? do you see?

hêcv? does he/she see?

hêceyv? do we see?

hêcatskv? do y'all see?

With **nâke** 'what', they end in **-a**:

hecetv to look at

stem: **hec-**, fgr. **hêc-**

Hêces. He/She sees it.

Hêcv? Does he/she see it?

Nâken hêca? What does he/she

see?
Nâken hêcetska? What do you
see?

Exercises

Nâken hõmpetska? 'What are you eating?'

Vocabulary

estî, estimv who
nâke what
estv, estvmimv where
estofv when

estõwē which
nvcõmē, nvcõwē how many
estowen how
nâk(e) estowen why

Questions words in Creek can be several different parts of speech. The following question words are pronouns:

estî, estimv who
nâke what
estv, estvmimv where
estofv when

These words can be used to replace noun phrases. They don't move the way English question words do:

Bill rvrõn hõmpes.	Bill is eating fish.
Bill nâken hõmpa?	What is Bill eating?
Nâken hõmpetska?	What are you eating?
Estvn ayetska?	Where are you going?

Note that wh-questions (questions that ask who, where, when, why, what, which, how, etc.) end in final **-a**.

Some question words are adjectives. **Estõwē** 'which' and **nvcõwē** 'how many' are used this way:

Cokv estõwēn ceyâca?	Which book do you want?
Cokv nvcõwēn ceyâca?	How many books do you want?

These same words can also be used as verbs:

Nvcõwa?	How much is it?
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Exercises

1 Turn the following sentences into questions by replacing the underlined noun phrase with a question word:

- a Rvrörn hömpetskes. _____
- b Jenny tvlofvn ayes. _____
- c Jenny tvlofvn ayes. _____
- d Yv April em atvmet ôs. _____
- e Sally efv lvtstēn hêces. _____
- f Sally efv lvtstēn hêces. _____
- g Sally efv hvmken hêces. _____

2 Pair up with one or two people in class. Get to know them by asking them questions. Write down the questions and answers below and share them with the rest of the class.

- a _____ ? _____
- b _____ ? _____
- c _____ ? _____
- d _____ ? _____

Letkeköt os 'He/She is not running'

Vocabulary

(e)tö-öhnanopv giraffe
kaccv tiger
pen-hölocv peacock
rvcce-köphe camel
'ste-papv lion

ue-sökhv hippo
wotkö-este monkey
yöpo-löwake elephant
yöpo-yvpe rhino

To say 'not' with a verb, you add **-ekö** 'not' to a zero grade stem:

letketv to run

stem: **letk-**

Lētkes. He/She is running.

Letkekös. He/She is not running.

Lētket os. He/She is running.

Letkeköt os. He/She is not running.

Letkeköt owv? Isn't he/she running?

vyetv to go

Ayes. He/She is going.

Vyekös. He/She is not going.

Ayet os. He/She is going.

Vyeköt os. He/She is not going.

Vyeköt owv? Isn't he/she going?

Note: the first person singular is **-äkö-**:

nesetv to buy

stem: **nes-**

nesäkös I am not buying

nesetskekös you are not buying

nesekös he/she is not buying

nesäkös we are not buying

nesatskekös y'all are not buying

In English you can say 'I am not buying' or shorten it to 'I'm not buying'. Creek does the same thing: **Nesäkös** 'I am not buying', **Nesäks** 'I'm not buying'. Here's a very useful word: **Kerräks** 'I don't know'.

For negative commands, add **-eköt (öwvs)**. The **öwvs** is usually dropped:

nvfketv to hit
yvhiketv to sing

Nvfkeköt (öwvs). Don't hit him/her.
Yvhikeköt (öwvs). Don't sing.

Adjectives are made negative with **-eko** instead of **-ekö**:

catē red

Yv catēt ôs. This is red.
Yv catekot ôs. This is not red.
Yv catekot ôwv? Is this not red?

Exercises

- 1 Memorize the negative forms of 'buy'. Take turns reciting them in class.
- 2 Change the commands to their opposites:

Ex.	Letkvs!	<u>Letkeköt.</u>
	Yvhikvs!	_____
	_____	Hömpekot.
	Mēcvs!	_____
	Taskvs!	_____
	Likvs!	_____

Vyvhanis 'I'm going to go', Mēcarēs 'I will do it'

Vocabulary

canv fly
ēfkvncō tick
fo bee
fo-cate red wasp

kvfkō flea
ōkyeha mosquito
tvkōca ant

Just as English has both 'I'm going to run' and 'I will run', Creek has two ways to express future time. Future 1 expresses a near future—something that will take place soon (I'm going to go, 'I'm going to go to town'). It's formed with -**vhan-**:

vyetv to go
letketv to run
ōsketv to rain

Vyvhanes. He/She is going to go.
Letkvhanes. He/She is going to run.
Ōskvhanes. It's going to rain.

Here's how a future 1 verb is conjugated:

yvhiketv to sing

Yvhikvhanis. I'm going to sing.
Yvhikvhanetskes. You're going to sing.
Yvhikvhanes. He/She is going to sing.
Yvhikvhanēs. We're going to sing.
Yvhikvhanatskes. Y'all are going to sing.

Here's how the negatives are done:

Yvhikvhanvkōt os. I'm not going to sing.
Yvhikvhanetskekōt os. You're not going to sing.
Yvhikvhanekōt os. He/She's not going to sing.
Yvhikvhanēkōt os. We're not going to sing.

Future 2 is used for promises and open-ended predictions: 'I will be a doctor'.
It's formed with **-vrē-**:

mēcetv to do

Mēcvrēs. He/She will do it.

In Future 1, the person markers occur after **-vhan-**. With **-vrē-**, person markers occur before it. Note that the first person singular is **-arē-**:

nesetv to buy

Nesarēs. I will buy it.

Nesetskvrēs. You will buy it.

Nesvrēs. He/She will buy it.

Neseyvrēs. We will buy it.

Nesatskvrēs. Y'all will buy it.

Exercises

- 1 Memorize the future forms of 'buy'. Take turns reciting them in class.

Lêtkvnks 'She ran': Expressing past time

Vocabulary

accvkē clothes
ēyökkofketv shirt
hōnnv-lecv skirt
hvse-eskēruce watch

ofv-piketv underwear
săkpv-sekō vest
'sem vlōmhv button
'sōhtēhkv boots

Creek has several categories of time:

Present	Now or a few seconds ago
Past 1	Recently: Last night to today
Past 2	A while ago: About a year ago to yesterday
Past 3	Long ago: About twenty years ago to about a year ago
Past 4	Very long ago: Up to about twenty years ago

With active verbs, present tense is indicated by the l-grade alone:

lvtketv to fall

Latkes. He/She is falling / fell (a few seconds ago).

Latket os.

Past 1 uses the h-grade:

Lvtīkes. He/She fell (recently).

Lvtīket os.

Past 2 uses the f-grade + **-vnk-**:

Lâtkvnks. He/She fell (a while ago).

Lâtket ôwvnks.

Past 3 uses the f-grade + **-emvt(e)-**:

Lâtkemvts. He/She fell (long ago).

Lâtket ôwemvts.

Past 4 uses the l-grade + **-vtē-**:

Latkvtēs. He/She fell (very long ago).

Latket owvtēs.

In the above, the 'be' forms would be used to explain why something happened.

Exercises

Overview of the verb

Vocabulary

'**stenke-hute** glove(s)
'**stenke-săkpikv** ring
svhōcackv sock(s)
tör-săkkakv eyeglasses
envrke his/her stomach, belly

nak-ōnvkv story
cehviletv to struggle, strive
cokv vketēcetv to study
estemerketv to suffer

We've seen several prefixes and suffixes in Creek. These occur in an specific order on the verb. Here's the order of the affixes you've learned so far:

Patient	Loc.		Fut1	Agent	Neg	Tense	Dur	Mood
cv-	ōh-	ROOT-	-vhan-	-i-	-ekō-	-vnk-	-ē-	-s
<hr/>								
Stem								

Here, 'Patient' stands for the patient set of prefixes (*cv-*, *ce-*, *e-*, *pu-*) and 'Loc.' stands for the locative prefixes *ōh-*, *tăk-*, *ăk-*, and *v-*. The stem is larger than the root. The stem consists of all prefixes, the root, and the innermost suffixes. Grades apply to the stem.

The stem is followed by several additional suffixes. Notice that *-vhan-* (future 1) occurs before the agent suffixes (*-i-* 'I', *-etsk-* 'you, etc.'), and that other tense markers (*-vrē-*, *-vnk-*, etc.) occur later. This is why you say *Mēcvhanetskv*? 'Are you going to do it?' but *Mēcetskvrē te?* 'Will you do it?'.

There are still many affixes to learn. A more complete chart showing the structure of verbs appears in the Appendix.

Exercises

Cvyayvkēn 'quietly': Manner adverbs

Vocabulary

cvyayvkē quiet
hvlvlatkē slow
hvlwē high, expensive
kvncvpē low (adj.)
lvpkē quick
pvfnē fast (adj.)

yekcicē loud
vwōlē near
hōpvyē far
hōfōnē a long time
hvyayvkē light, bright

Manner adverbs ('quickly', 'quietly', etc.) are based on adjectives and end in **-n**:

cvyayvkē quiet
herē good
kvncvpē low (adj.)
lvpkē quick
pvfnē fast (adj.)
yekcicē loud

cvyayvkēn quietly
herēn well
kvncvpēn low (adv.)
lvpkēn quickly
pvfnēn fast (adv.)
yekcicēn loudly

Here are examples in sentences:

Tim cvyayvkēn punayes.
Herēn yvhikes.
Kvncvpēn tvmkes.
Pvfnēn letkvs!

Tim is talking quietly.
He/She is singing well.
It's flying low.
Run fast!

Manner adverbs have negative forms:

Herekon yvhikes.

He/She is singing poorly.

Time adverbs like **pāksen** 'tomorrow' are based on noun phrases and also end in **-n**:

Pāksen yefulkepvhanis.

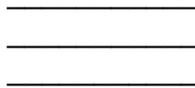
I'm going back tomorrow.

Exercises

1 Give the adverb corresponding to the following adjectives:

hvlwē high (adj.)

hvlvlatkē slow
lvpōtkē straight
yekcē strong



Mucv-nerē 'tonight': Time words

Vocabulary

lvpkuce minute	hvtehakē early
nettv, netta day	fvccv-likat noon
mucv-nettv today	fvccv-lik-höyanat after noon, past noon
pākse tomorrow	yafkat evening
pāksvnkē yesterday	yömuakat dusk (getting dark)
nerē night	yömuakē dark (not color--only as night)
mucv-nerē tonight	hvte just now
(net)tvcakō week	estofis forever, always
öhrölöpē year	
hvthvyvtke morning	

Earlier we learned that subjects end in **-t** and that objects end in **-n**. It's more accurate to say that anything in the sentence other than the subject ends in **-n**. We saw that manner adverbs end in **-n**. Time words also end in **-n** when used as adverbs:

Mucv-nerēn cehecarēs.
Päksen vyvhanetskv?

I'll see you tonight.
Are you going tomorrow?

When used as subjects, they may end in **-t**:

Mucv-nettv(t) kvsvppēt ôs. It's cold today.

Exercises

Expanding your vocabulary: -uce 'little' and -răkkö 'big'

Vocabulary

ăkhvse pond
ăkhvse-răkkö lake
hötvle wind
hötvle-răkkö tornado
hvcce river
hvccuce creek, stream
'kvn-hvlwe hill ("ground-high")
'kvn-hvlwe-răkkö mountain
estuce baby ("little person")
höktuce girl ("little woman")

kapv-răkkö overcoat
hakuce little spoon, teaspoon
totkuce matches ("little fire")
cukuce bathroom, small building
escunēckuce small truck
nenuce trail
wakuce calf
nökösuce cub

Creek adds **-uce** to nouns for smaller or lesser types ('diminutives'):

efv dog
pose cat
este person
cukö house
ecke his/her mother
erke his/her father

efuce puppy
posuce kitten
estuce baby
cukuce small house, bathroom
eckuce his/her mother's sister
erkuce his/her father's brother

An ending **-răkkö** is used to mean 'big':

nute tooth
tvlofv town

nute-răkkö molar
tvlofv-răkkö city

Exercises

1. Try to guess what the diminutive means:

wakv cow
escunēckv truck
ecö deer
tafvmpuce onion

wakuce _____
escunēckuce _____
ecuce _____
tafvmpuce _____

Cvnake 'mine'

Vocabulary

cvmhcakv bell
sēwvvnketv belt
esletketv bicycle
ăktōpv bridge
sule buzzard
ehvpo camp
kōhv cane, reed

rē arrow
ēssō ashes
tōknap-hute bank, purse
etō-hvrpe tree bark
pōkkō-nvfkēt baseball
pōkkō-răkkō basketball
kōnawv bead, necklace

Creek uses the word **nake** 'thing' for independent possessive pronouns:

cvnake mine
cenake yours
enake his/hers
punake ours

These can be used like pronouns to replace noun phrases:

Yv cvnaket ôs.
Mv cenaket ôwv?

This is mine.
Is that yours?

They can also be used within noun phrases to indicate possession:

lvmhe cvnake

my eagle / an eagle of mine

Exercises

1 Give the independent possessive pronoun corresponding to the pronoun in parentheses:

- a Yv _____ ôwv? (pome)
- b Cēpanat _____ ôs. (ēme)
- c Hōktuce _____ ôwv? (cēme)
- d Puetake _____ ôwv? (ēme)
- e Puetake _____ ôwv? (cēme)

Vce 'corn' vs. hvce 'tail': listening practice

Vocabulary

vsokölv sugar
Nettvcakö Sunday
feksömkē surprised
em mesketv to sweat
pasetv to sweep

ehvce its tail
ăklöpetv to take a bath
yvmvsē tame
vsse tea

In English, some syllables are pronounced more loudly than others. A word like *al-li-ga-tor* is very loud on the first syllable, then quiet, then a little louder, then soft again.

Creek words don't have this kind of stress: a word like **hvlpvtv** 'alligator' is evenly loud through the word. Creek does make use of pitch, though. Listen carefully to how the words **vce** 'corn', **hvce** 'tail', **yvnvwv** 'cheek' and **yvnvsv** 'buffalo' are pronounced:

— —
vce corn

— —
hvce tail

— — —
yvnvwv cheek

— — —
yvnvsv buffalo

The words on the left have level pitch. The words on the right drop after the second to last syllable. Nouns and infinitives either have left pitch like the words on the left, or a drop after the second to last syllable, like the words on the right. A simple way to record this is to place an accent on the last syllable with high pitch:

vcé corn
yvnvẃ cheek

h́vce tail
yvńsv buffalo

We won't write accent in this book, but you should pay attention to it if you want to have a good accent. Try to record it when you learn a new word. If you have any doubts, you can look in the Creek dictionary.

Exercises

1 Have your teacher say the following words and try to determine whether the accent occurs on the final syllable or the second to last syllable. There are rules for accent placement, but they're complicated. See first if you can hear it!

a eco deer

b euce fawn

c efv dog

d vm efv my dog

e efuce puppy

f vm efuce my puppy

g vyetv to go

h hōmpetv to eat

i wvnvyetv to tie

j vwnvyetv to tie to

Expanding your vocabulary: Adjectives

Vocabulary

ōketv to say, mean
rvlvketv to get back, come back
tawv probably
elēcetv to kill
etepōyetv to fight
nōckelē sleepy
morecetv to boil
tvacetv to cut

vtākretv to hang
haketv to become
hayetv to make
vlicēcetv to begin
vpiketv to get or be in
vkvsvmetv to believe, praise
nekretv to burn

Adjectives in Creek are often closely related to verbs:

eletv to die	elē dead
hetutetv to freeze	hetutē frozen
vhōlōcetv to cloud up	vhōlōcē cloudy
kvcketv to snap, break	kvckē snapped, broken
nekretv to burn	nekrē burnt

Adjectives are in the zero grade and end in **-ē**. Verbs normally occur in a grade:

Hetotes.	It's freezing.
Hetōtēt ôs.	It's frozen.
Vhōloces.	It's clouding up.
Vhōlōcēt ôs.	It's cloudy.

One use of the verb **ōketv** 'to say, mean' is in identifying someone who's talking:

Juanitat okis.	This is Juanita (talking).
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The word **tawv** is only used after other words, usually noun phrases:

Pepsi tawv.	Probably a Pepsi.
Yōmockât tawv.	Probably after dark.

Exercises

Ōh-ōnvkv: A phone conversation

- a Juanitat okis. Capan tăklikv? This is Juanita. Is Capan there?
- b Mõnks. No.
- a Estvmin āhya? Where did he go?
- b Tvlofvn āhyes. He went to town.
- a 'Stofvn rvlvkrētē? When's he coming back?
- b Yõmockāt tawv. Probably after dark.
- a Mon owât, yõmockof
iem vhuehkarēs. Well, then, I'll call him
when it gets dark.
- b Enkâ. Okay.
- a Bye. Bye.

Expanding your vocabulary: Compounds

Vocabulary

hömpetv food, groceries	kvco berries
vpeswv meat	fvmēcv cantaloupe
sökhv-peswv pork	cvstvlē watermelon
wakv-peswv beef	svtv apple
ecö-vpeswv venison	yvlahv orange
täklīke bread	pvrkö grape(s)
täklik-cvmpv cake ("sweet bread")	pvkanv peach
täklik-cvmpuce cookie	pvkanuce plum
täklik-kvrpe crackers	kafe coffee
vhv-cerēhe potato	vsse tea
vhv-cvmpv sweet potato, yam	helökwv chewing gum
sökhv-pes' säkmorke fried pork (chops, etc.)	ökcvnwv salt
sökhv-pes' hötöpke roast beef	homuce pepper
custake egg	höckvtē flour
vce corn	kinte candy
tvlakö bean(s)	pvrkö-öpuswv wine ("grape juice")
tömatv tomato	rvfö-tvhvyv acorn squash ("winter squash")
kepalv strawberry	

You may have noticed that many basic words in Creek are compounds (words composed of two roots). When one noun modifies another noun, the first one modifies the second:

cvtö-nene railroad ("metal road")
pvrkö-öpuswv wine ("grape juice")
rvfö-tvhvyv acorn squash ("winter squash")

Sometimes the first noun is shortened:

ue-cettö water snake (from **uewv cettö**)

Nouns and adjectives can also be compounded. In this case, the adjective comes second. It usually ends in **-e**, but it sometimes ends in **-v** or **-ö**:

wakv-hötöpke barbecued beef

wakv-vtotkv ox
wakv-tēhō steer

A handful of nouns are like adjectives in appearing second. These include **hōvnwv** 'male', **hōktē** 'female', and titles like **mēkkō** 'chief':

wakv-hōvnwv bull
wakv-hōktē cow

Exercises

Cvhēces 'She's looking at me': Patient prefixes for objects

Vocabulary

ecatv his/her blood	enōkwv his/her neck
ecōk-hvrpe his/her lip	envrke his/her stomach
efōne his/her bone	era his/her back
ehōkpe his/her chest	esōksō his/her hip
ekv-esse, ekisse his/her hair (on head) ("head-hair")	etorkōwv his/her knee
ena his/her body	etōrofiv his/her face
enke-ecke his/her thumb ("hand-mother")	eturwv his/her eye
	eyupo his/her nose
	eyvvnwv his/her cheek

Remember that body parts, family terms, and locative nouns take **cv-** 'my', **ce-** 'your', **e-** 'his/her', and **pu-** 'our' for possession. The vocabulary includes more body parts for review of this pattern.

For objects of verbs, Creek uses **cv-** 'me', **ce-** 'you', and **pu-** 'us':

Hēces.	He/She's looking at him/her.
Cvhēces.	He/She's looking at me.
Cehēces.	He/She's looking at you.
Puhēces.	He/She's looking at us.

This looks just like the possession in forms like **cvcke** 'my mother', except that there is no third person form in **e-**.

When a verb begins with a vowel, there are a few changes.

•If a verb begins with short **e**, the **e** deletes and the verb takes **cv-**, **ce-**, **pu-**:

Ehanes.	He/She's scolding him/her.
Cvhanes.	He/She's scolding me.
Cehanes.	He/She's scolding you.
Puhanes.	He/She's scolding us.

•If a verb begins with **v**, the **v** deletes, and the verb takes **vcv-**, **ece-**, **epu-**:

Vnōkecēs.	He/She loves him/her.
Vcvnōkecēs.	He/She loves me.

Ecenōkecēs.
Epunōkecēs.

He/She loves you.
He/She loves us.

•If a word begins with **ō**, the same prefixes are used, but the final vowel deletes:

Ōtakes.
Vcōtakes.
Ecōtakes.
Epōtakes.

He/She is hugging him/her.
He/She is hugging me.
He/She is hugging you.
He/She is hugging us.

Patient prefixes can be used in combination with agent prefixes:

Cenafkis.
Cvhēcetskv?

I'm hitting you.
Are you looking at me?

Summary: patient prefixes have the following forms:

<u>Before a consonant or (e)</u>	<u>Before v</u>	<u>Before ō</u>
cv-	vcv-	vc-
ce-	ece-	ec-
pu-	epu-	ep-

Exercises

1 Add the object prefix corresponding to the pronoun:

- a Nafkes. (vne) _____
- b Vpelices. (pome) _____
- c Ōhlētkes. (cēme) _____
- d Ōhlikekot. (vne) _____
- e Vfvstepvs. (vne) _____

2 Answer the following questions with ehę 'yes':

- Ex. Cvhēcetskv? Ehę, cehēcis.
- a Epupelicatskv? _____
 - b Cenafkv? _____

Cvnökkēs 'I'm sick': Patient prefixes for subjects

Vocabulary

afvckē happy
cvpākkē angry
elvwē hungry
en hōmecē angry with (someone)
enökkē sick
etkōlē (feeling) cold
ewvnhkē thirsty

fekcākhē jealous
fekhvmkē brave
feknökkē broken-hearted, sad
fvcecē full (after eating)
hōtōsē weary, fatigued, tired out
penkvlē afraid, fearful

When an adjective has a subject, it uses the patient prefixes **cv-**, **ce-**, **pu-**:

Penkvlē.	He/She is afraid.
Cvpenkvlē.	I'm afraid.
Cepenkvlē.	You're afraid.
Pupenkvlē.	We're afraid.

Feknökkēs.	He/She's sad.
Cvfeknökkēs.	I'm sad.
Cefeknökkēs.	You're sad.
Pufeknökkēs.	We're sad.

(E)nökkēs.	He/She's sick.
Cvnökkēs.	I'm sick.
Cenökkēs.	You're sick.
Punökkēs.	We're sick.

An intransitive verb having a subject that performs an action unintentionally also uses **cv-**, **ce-**, **pu-**:

Nucayes.	He/She is yawning.
Cvnucayes.	I'm yawning.
Cenucayes.	You're yawning.
Punucayes.	We're yawning.

Vpuekes.	He/She is dreaming.
Vcvpuekes.	I'm dreaming.
Ecepuekes.	You're dreaming.
Epupuekes.	We're dreaming.

Hāktēskes.
Cvhāktēskes
Cehāktēskes.
Puhāktēskes.

He/She's sneezing.
I'm sneezing.
You're sneezing.
We're sneezing.

(It's also possible to say **Hāktēsakis** for 'I'm sneezing' if you do it on purpose.)

Exercises

1 Give the correct form based on the pronoun in parentheses:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------|
| a | Elwēt ôs. (vne) | _____ |
| b | Etkōlēt ôwv? (cēme) | _____ |
| c | Latkes. (vne) | _____ |
| d | Ewvnhkēt ôs. (pome) | _____ |

Letketvn ceyâcv? 'Do you want to run?': Verbal nouns

Vocabulary

ecuse his/her younger same-sex sibling

ervhv his/her older same-sex sibling

ēwvvnwv his sister

ecerwv her brother

eppuce his son

eccuste his daughter

eccuswv her son/daughter

eckuce his/her aunt (on mother's side) ("little mother")

epvwv his/her uncle (on mother's side)

erkuce his/her uncle (on father's side) ("little father")

Creek words for members of the family can be confusing for English speakers. The words **ecuse** and **ervhv** refer to a younger or older sibling who is the same sex as you. You might think of them as "minnie-me" and "maxi-me". In referring to a sibling of the opposite sex, no distinction is made in age: **ēwvvnwv** 'his sister', **ecerwv** 'her brother'.

The verbs introduced in this book have ended in **-etv**. Words ending in **-etv** are verbal nouns (infinitives). Usually they refer to abstract things like actions, but sometimes they have concrete uses:

	<u>abstract meaning</u>	<u>concrete meaning</u>
hömpetv	to eat	food
pofketv	to blow on	trumpet, horn
vcemketv	to climb	stairs
yvhiketv	to sing	song

Because forms ending in **-etv** are nouns, they can be used as objects of other verbs:

Pökkön ceyâcv?

Do you want a ball?

Hömpetvn ceyâcv?

Do you want to eat?

Atvme möcvsēn cvyâces.

I want a new car.

Letketvn cvyâces.

I want to run.

In the above forms, the verb **eyac-** 'want' takes nouns and verbal nouns as objects. The verb **eyac-** 'want' uses patient prefixes for its subject.

Verbal nouns can also be formed by adding **-kv** to a stem:

höpel- bury

höttöp- itchy

mēkusvp- pray

höpelkv burying; grave

höttöpkv itching, itchiness

mēkusvpkv prayer

-kv tends to be used more for stems ending in a single consonant.

Exercises

1 Write four sentences stating the things you want:

- a _____
- b _____
- c _____
- d _____

2 Write four sentences stating the things you want to do:

- a _____
- b _____
- c _____
- d _____

3 Write four sentences stating the things you don't want:

- a _____
- b _____
- c _____
- d _____

4 Write four sentences stating the things you don't want to do:

- a _____
- b _____
- c _____
- d _____

Efv lvstat 'the black dog': Definite -at(e)

Vocabulary

svtahē square
pöľöksē round
tvsköcē thin (of a thing)
cekfē thick
fvskē sharp

tefnē dull
fvckē full
tvnkē empty
höľwvyēcē bad, mean
löpicē nice, well-behaved

Creek has a suffix **-at(e)** indicating definiteness ('the'). It doesn't normally attach to a bare noun: it normally attaches to adjectives or verbs ending in **-e** or **-ē**, and only to the last word in a noun phrase:

efv a/the dog
efv lvstē a black dog
efv lvstē tuccēnē three black dogs
efv lvstat the black dog
efv lvstē tuccēnat the three black dogs

The ending in these forms is **-at(e)**. The final vowel is usually dropped. The ending **-at(e)** often contracts with **-t** and **-n**:

efv lvstate > **efv lvstat** 'the black dog (bare form)'
efv lvstatet > **efv lvstat** 'the black dog (subject form)'
efv lvstaten > **efv lvstan** 'the black dog (object form)'

Only a few nouns without adjectives can take **-at(e)**: **cēpvnē** 'boy', **cēpânat** 'the boy'; **höktvlē** 'old woman', **höktâlat** 'the old woman'.

The **-at(e)** ending is often added to adjectives or numbers without any preceding noun:

lvstat(e) the black one
cutkusat(e) the small one
hvmkat(e) one (of them)
hökkôlat(e) two (of them)
'svhvmkat(e) the first one
'svhökkôlat(e) the second one

Exercises

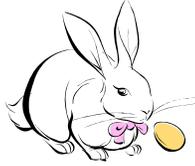
1 Make the underlined noun phrases definite:

a Pose cutkēn hêcis.

b Efv

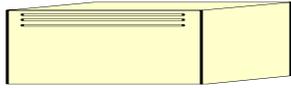
2 Use a bare word for a color, shape, or size to describe the item you want.

Ex.

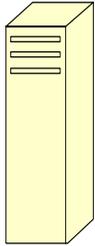


Hvtkan cvyâces.

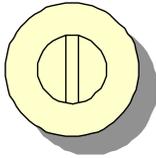
a



b



c



d



More on the verb **ōwetv** 'to be'

Vocabulary

ehiwv his wife	ehe her husband
pōhyvkē lonely, lonesome	ele-ceskv his/her heel ("foot-edge")
yōpāklvtkē late, falling behind	ele-pakkō his/her calf (of leg)
efōlōwv his/her shoulder	ele-toktuswv his/her ankle
ehvfe his/her thigh	ele-wesakv his/her toe

The verb **ōwetv** 'to be' is slightly irregular. In older forms of the language, the verb has an **m**:

ōmetv	ōwetv	to be
ōmis	ōwis	I am
ōmetskes	ōwetskes / ōntskes	you are
ōmes	ōwes / ōs	he/she/it is
ōmēs	ōwēs	we are
ōmatskes	ōwatskes	y'all are

A few other stems ending in **...om-** vary between **m** and **w**:

nvcōmē	nvcōwē	few, not many
kometv	kowetv	to think, want
estomen	estowen	how
omē	owē	like, resembling
mōmis	mōwis	but
momen	mowen	and

You'll see the forms with **m** in most written language and in readings from the 1800's.

Exercises

Höpuetake 'children': Plural nouns

Vocabulary

hövnwv man, male	hövntake men
höpuewv child	höpuetake children
emösuswv his/her grandchild	emösustake his/her grandchildren
ēwvnwv his sister (of a man)	ēwvntake his sisters
höktē female, woman	höktvke women
höktvlwv old woman	höktvlvke old women
cēpvne boy	cēpvvke boys
vculē old man	vculvke old people
fuswv bird	Fuswvlke Bird clan
ecō deer	'Cövlke Deer clan
wotkō raccoon	Wotkvlke Raccoon clan
Cahtv Choctaw	Cahtvlke the Choctaw
Ue-āksumkv Baptist	Ue-āksumkvlke the Baptists

Most nouns in Creek are the same in the singular and plural: **efv hvmken** 'one dog', **efv hökkolen** 'two dogs'. A few nouns referring to humans do have plurals, though.

A few human nouns ending in **...wv** have plurals ending in **-take**:

hövnwv man	hövntake men
höpuewv child	höpuetake children
emösuswv his/her grandchild	emösustake his/her grandchildren
ēwvnwv his sister (of a man)	ēwvntake his sisters

A few other nouns have plurals in **-vke**:

höktē female, woman	höktvke women
höktvlwv old woman	höktvlvke old women
cēpvne boy	cēpvvke boys
vculē old man	vculvke old people

Creek has an ending **-vlke** used to indicate groups. It's commonly used with names of clans:

fuswv bird	Fuswvlke Bird clan
ecō deer	'Cövlke Deer clan
wotkō raccoon	Wotkvlke Raccoon clan

It's also used for tribes, nations, religions, and denominations:

Cahtv Choctaw
Ue-ăksumkv Baptist

Cahtvlke the Choctaw
Ue-ăksumkvlke the Baptists

Exercises

Nvfkakes 'They're hitting him': Plural verbs and adjectives

Vocabulary

mvhayetv to teach
enheketv-nettv birthday
pofketv to blow on
heketv to be born
pvletv to borrow from
'cv-kötäkse bow
hesaketv to breathe; life

'svtetv to bring
kvckē broken, snapped
ōretv to reach
vpvyetv to add
vlvketv to arrive
vpōhetv to ask

Some adjectives form plurals with **-vk-**:

catē red	catvkē (of two or more)
lanē green, brown, yellow	lanvkē (of two or more)
afvckē happy	afvckvkē (of two or more)
vculē old (usually of a male)	vculvkē (of two or more)

Here are some examples:

Vm estelepikv	catvkēt ôs.
my shoe	red(pl.) are
My shoes are red.	

Vn hōpuetake	afvckvkēt ôs.
my children	happy(pl.) are
My children are happy.	

The same ending is used in some verbs for plural subjects or objects. Plural **-vk-** is part of the stem:

nvfketv to hit
nvfkvketv to hit (of two or more)

hōmpetv to eat
hōmpvketv to eat (of two or more)

esketv to drink
eskvketv to drink (of two or more)

As a result, the entire stem (including **-vk-**) changes in different grades:

Nafkes.
Nvfkakes.
Nvfkähkes.

He/She is hitting it. (lgr.)
They are hitting it. (lgr.)
They hit it (today). (hgr.)

Hömpes.
Hömpakes.
Hömpähkes.

He/She is eating. (lgr.)
They are eating. (lgr.)
They ate (today). (hgr.)

Ēskes.
Eskakes.
Eskähkes.

He/She is drinking. (lgr.)
They are drinking. (lgr.)
They drank (today). (hgr.)

Exercises

1 Change the following sentences to plural forms:

a Mv pose lanēt ôs. _____

b Mv cokv-hēcv vtotkes. _____

c

Löpöckēs 'They're small': Irregular plural verbs and adjectives

Vocabulary

cutkē / löpöckē small
eletv / pvsvtketv to die
esetv / cvwetv to catch, take
vretv / welvketv / fulletv to go about
liketv / kaketv / vpoketv to sit
vtetv / vthöyetv / vwetv to come
vyetv / vhöyetv / vpeyetv to go
hueretv / sehoketv / svpäkletv to stand
hvkihketv / hvkihhöketv / hvkahecetv to cry
hvlketv / hvlhöketv / hvlecetv to crawl
letketv / tökörketv / pefatketv to run
nöcetv / nöchöyetv / nöcicetv to sleep
tasketv / tashöketv / tasecetv to jump
tvmketv / tvmhöketv / tvmecetv to fly
vcemketv / vcemhöketv / vcemecetv to climb
wäkketv / wäkhöketv / lömhetv to lie

Creek has many irregular verbs showing distinctions in number:

liketv to sit (of one)
kaketv to sit (of two)
vpoketv to sit (of three or more)

This replacement of one verb for another is called suppletion. Suppletion in Creek is common for verbs referring to motion or position.

As shown above, the verb **liketv** 'to sit' has a three-way distinction between singular (one), dual (two), and triplural (three or more). Other verbs have a two-way distinction between singular and plural (two or more):

cutkē small (of one)
löpöckē small (of two or more)

eletv to die (of one)
pvsvtketv to die (of two or more)

esetv to take, catch (one)
cvwetv to take, catch (two or more)

Here are some very common three-way verbs:

<u>of one</u>	<u>of two</u>	<u>of three or more</u>	
vretv	welvketv	fulletv	to go about
vtetv	vthöyev	vwetv	to come
vyetv	vhöyev	vpeyev	to go
hueretv	sehoketv	svpäkletv	to stand
hvkihketv	hvkihhöketv	hvkahecetv	to cry
hvlketv	hvlhöketv	hvlcetv	to crawl
letketv	tökörketv	pefatketv	to run
lvtketv	yurketv	pvlvtketv	to fall
nöcetv	nöchöyev	nöcicetv	to sleep
wäkketv	wäkhöketv	lömhetv	to lie
tasketv	tashöketv	tasecetv	to jump
tvmketv	tvmhöketv	tvmecetv	to fly
vcemketv	vcmhöketv	vcemecetv	to climb

The pattern seen in the last three sets above (**...k-etv**; **...hök-etv**; **...ec-etv**) is particularly common. Here are some more sets like this:

sölotketv	sölothöketv	sölotecetv	to slide
wohketv	wohhoketv	wohecetv	to bark
yefölketv	yefölhöketv	yefölecetv	to go back

Tepâket 'together', Hömpvks cē! 'Y'all eat!', Vpeyvķēs! 'Let's go!'

Vocabulary

hvtvm again

vculkv age

ētv another

vpēttē arbor, shade

vnicv assistant

yekcē strong; hard

yekcetv authority

hōtōpkē roasted

hōtōpetv to roast, bake, barbecue

āklōpetv to take a bath

ecōkhesse his beard

hērusē beautiful

eccaswv beaver

vfvstetv to take care of

The word **(e)tepâket** can be used when two people perform an action together:

Cvcke tepâket hōmpetv nōricēs.
my mother together food we are cooking
My mother and I are cooking.

The above is literally, "My mother having-joined-together, we are cooking food".

Commands may be addressed to one person or to two or more. Singular commands are formed by adding **-vs**, but plural commands add **-vks**:

Hōmpvs! Eat! (said to one) **Hōmpvks!** Eat, y'all.
Nvfvks! Hit it! (said to one) **Nvfvks!** Hit it, y'all.

This means that suppletive verbs will take **-vks** in the dual and triplural:

Likepvs. Have a seat. (said to one)
Kakepvs. Have a seat. (said to two)
Vpokepvs. Have a seat. (said to three or more)

'Let's' is expressed by adding **-vkēs** (or **-vkēts**):

Hōmpvkēs. Let's eat.
Efvn assēcvkēs. Let's chase the dog.

Exercises

1 Change the action to the number indicated:

Ex. Este-honvnrwv hvmket arvtēs. (2) Este-hōnvntake hōkkolet welakvtēs.

- a Tvlofvn ayis. (3) _____
- b Cettōt tāk wâkkes. (3) _____
- c Wakv hvmket ares. (3) _____
- d Likepvs! (2) _____
- e Likepvs! (3) _____
- f Wākkepvhānis. (2) _____

2 Change the command to a 'let's' expression for three or more:

- a Vyvs! _____
- b Letkvs! _____
- c Taskvs! _____

Ēhēces 'He's looking at himself', Etehēcēs 'We're looking at each other'

Vocabulary

vhericē careful
vcenv cedar
nvrkvpv center, middle
ōnvyetv to tell
hoccicetv to write
ōhliketv-ōhlikv chairperson
tvsekvyv citizen
tvlofv town
etvlwv tribal town

tvlof-rākkō city
fēketv salary, pay
vsēketv to shake hands with, greet
penkvlēcetv to scare
sapetv to scratch (for medicine or punishment)
cokv-hayv secretary
nērkv seed

Reflexives ('myself', 'herself', etc.) are expressed by adding **ē-** to a verb:

nvfketv to hit
hecetv to see, look

Ēnafkes. He's hitting himself.
Ēhēces. He's looking at himself.

The prefix doesn't change for different persons:

hōsketv to scratch

Ēhoskis. I'm scratching myself.
Ēhosketskes. You're scratching yourself.
Ēhoskes. He's scratching himself./She's scratching herself.
Ēhoskēs. We're scratching ourselves.
Ēhoskatskes. Y'all are scratching yourselves.

Reciprocals ('each other') are indicated by adding **ete-** to a verb:

nvfketv to hit
hecetv to see, look

Etenvfkakes. They're hitting each other.
Etehecakes. They're looking at each other.
Etehēcēs. We're looking at each other.

To say, 'with each other', **etem-** (or **eten-**) is used:

hämpetv to eat

etenhämpetv to eat with each other

Exercises

Expanding your vocabulary: lētkv 'runner', yvhikv 'singer'

Vocabulary

nerē-fullv coyote ("night roamers")
fayv hunter
(ō)panv dancer
vlēkcv doctor
heles-hayv medicine maker

hōmpetv-hayv cook, food maker
yvtekv interpreter
noricv cook
este-wvnavv police officer

Verbs can be turned into nouns in Creek. In the following examples, a verb is turned into a noun referring to someone or something that performs an action:

Punayv	punayes.	A speaker is speaking.
Pōkkēcvcv	pōkkēcces.	A ball player is playing ball.
Vlēkcv	vlēkces.	A doctor is doctoring.
Yvhikv	yvhikes.	A singer is singing.
Hayēcvcv	hayēcces.	A musician is playing.
Lētkv	lētkes.	A runner is running.
Vtotkv	vtotkes.	A worker is working.
Laksv	lakses.	A liar is telling lies.

Notice that the nouns end in **-v** and the stem is in the I-grade. A few nouns you've already learned use this pattern:

mvhayv teacher (from **mvhayetv** 'to teach')
este-papv lion (from **pvpetv** 'to eat (one type of food)')
Ue-āksumkv Baptist (from **uewv** 'water', **āksumketv** 'to sink')

Be careful of the following: these words look like they might be formed the same way, but they have short vowels in the stem: **erkenkv** 'preacher', **yvtekv** 'interpreter'.

With verbs referring to weather, a different pattern is used:

Hōtvlē	hōtales.	Wind is blowing.
Ōskē	oskes.	Rain is raining.
Tenētkē	tenētkes.	Thunder is thundering.

Nouns formed from weather verbs end in **-ē**.

Exercises

1 Try to guess the meanings of the following nouns:

elēcv

hoccicv

ohhēcv

opunayv

vnicv

Vm estelepikv Ivslvtēt ôs 'My shoes are black': More plural adjectives

Vocabulary

lōwvckē soft
afvnkē sticking out
Cvlakke Cherokee
Cekvsv Chickasaw
Nettv-cakō Sunday
Nettv-cakō-rākkō Christmas
mēkusvpkv-cukō church
kvpvketv to separate
rvhetv to shoot, hit
enōkketv sickness
hōpōrrenē sensible, smart
fvmece scented, having a smell
momē like that
pōyvfekcv spirit
ōpuswuce soup

We've seen that some adjectives form plurals with **-vk-** and a few adjectives have completely irregular plurals:

<u>singular</u>	<u>plural</u>
vculē old (usually of a male)	vculvkē
afvckē happy	afvckvkē
cutkē small	lōpōckē
elē dead	pvsvtkē

Another group of adjectives forms plurals a different way:

<u>singular</u>	<u>plural</u>
lvstē black	lvslvtē
lōwvckē soft	lōwvclōkē
hvtkē white	hvthvkē
hvsvtkē clean	hvsvthvkē
afvnkē sticking out	afvnfvkē
cvpkē long	cvpcvkē
fvckē full	fvcfvkē
tvnkē empty	tvntvkē

These plurals are formed as follows: copy the first consonant and immediately following vowel and place the copy before the last consonant of the root.

Here are some example sentences:

Vm estelepikv lvstēt ôs.

My shoe is black.

Vm estelepikv lvslvtēt ôs.

My shoes are black.

Exercises