

HOW TO SAY IT IN CREE

(Revised and Expanded)

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INTRODUCTION:

The following program is primarily an aid to the acquisition of simple, everyday phrases in Cree. It is hoped that students of Introductory Cree classes, and those who browse or travel in Cree country, find this a useful tool in their studies. To use correctly, simply fill in the blanks. The last section includes a glossary of most of the words contained in this program plus more common words which do not appear.

Table of Contents

I.	Pronunciation	
	1.	Consonants
	2.	Vowels
II.	Polite Conversation	
III.	Asking for Someone:	Animate Nouns
IV.	Asking for Something:	Inanimate Nouns
V.	Asking Directions:	In General
VI.	Other Questions	
	1)	Simple Requests: I
	2)	Simple Requests: You
	3)	Simple Requests: Want
VII.	Modals	
VIII.	Some Common Words	
IX.	Some Useful Words	
X.	Time	
XI.	Numbers	
XII.	Time Phrases	
XIII.	Days of Week	
XIV.	Dates	
XV.	Months	

- XVI. Seasons
- XVII. Likes and Dislikes
- XVIII. Verbs
 - AI Verb Roots
 - I I Verbs
 - Colors
 - Tenses
 - Transitive Verbs
- XIX. Verb Charts
- XX. Glossary

I. PRONUNCIATION

1. Consonants:

Ten consonants are used to write Cree in the Roman Orthography. They are:

c, h, k, m, n, p, s, t, w, y

All but four are pronounced similar to their English counterparts. The four that will give problems are:

c, k, p, and t.

Examples:

- A.) C - is like the "ch" in chalk
 - i) cêskwa - wait
 - ii) âcimo - tell a story (AIV)
 - iii) mêkwâc - presently
- B.) K - is unaspirated* as the "k" in skin
 - i) kiyâm - It doesn't matter
 - ii) okot - his/her nose (I)
 - iii) kiskîsik - your eye (I)
- C.) P - is unaspirated as the "p" in spit
 - i) pîyisk - eventually
 - ii) apoy - a paddle (A)
 - iii) akohp - a blanket (A)
- D.) T - is unaspirated as the "t" in Stan
 - i) timîw - It is deep (IIV)
 - ii) mistik - a log (I) / a tree (A)
 - iii) âtiht - some

* unaspirated means making a consonant sound without a slight puff of air as in pronouncing the "k" in "kin", the "p" in "pit" or the "t" in "tan"

(AIV) refers to Animate Intransitive Verb (pp. 22,23)

(IIV) refers to Intransitive Inanimate Verb (p. 23)

- (I) refers to Inanimate noun (pp. 3,6)
 (A) refers to Animate noun (pp. 3,5)

Note:

In D(i) above, the whole word is printed but in speaking one tends to drop the first "I". So rather than "tânisi" we have in normal speech "tân'si". Since this program is designed for speech all possible elisions will be marked by an "'". Another aspect of phonetics is the combination of two vowels to make one vowel sound. For example we have:

1. Nika-apin ôta - I will sit here. 1 is written as the above but upon speaking we combine the short "a's" to make a long "â" sound. So in speaking we have the same sentence:
2. Nikâpin ôta - I will sit here. All entries here will be written as to 2.

2. **VOWELS**

Cree Roman Orthography uses four English vowels to make seven vowel sounds. There are four long vowels and three short vowel sounds.
 Short Vowels: These are the three short vowels used in the SRO.

A.) a - pronounced as the "u" in but

- i) apisîs - a little
- ii) capasis - lower
- iii) pôna - feed the fire (AIV)

B.) i - pronounced as the "i" in pit

- i) iskwêw - a woman (A)
- ii) tipiskâw - it is night (IIV)
- iii) api - sit (AIV)

C.) o - pronounced as the "oo" in "book"

- i) omisi - this way (showing one how)
- ii) wâpos - a rabbit (A)
- iii) mîciso - eat (AIV)

Long Vowels:

To make vowels long in written Cree, a bar (macron) or a circumflex ^ is added above the vowel.

A.) a - pronounced as the "a" in father

- i) âmôw - a bee (A)
- ii) nâpêw - a man (A)
- iii) pâtimâ - later

B.) i - pronounced as the "e" in be

- i) îyâpîw - a buck (deer or moose) (A)
- ii) mînis - a berry (I)
- iii) awikâcî - or else

C.) o - pronounced as the "o" in ore or the "oo" in too

- i) ôta - here
- ii) nitôtêm - my friend (A)
- iii) âhpô - or

D.) e - pronounced as the "ay" in say

- i) êkosi - there!
- ii) pâyak - one
- iii) tâpwê - true, truly

Note:

The Cree divide nouns into two genders: Animate and inanimate. Using the right verbs, colors, demonstrative pronouns all depend on the noun's gender. Most living things are Animate in gender; most non-living things are Inanimate.

Glossary

II. POLITE CONVERSATION

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--|
| A. | Tân'si | Hi! How are you? |
| B. | Namôya nân'taw, kiya mâka | Fine, and you? |
| A. | Pâyakwan,
tâpwê miyo-kîsikaw | The same,
it is truly a nice day. |
| B. | âha, awînâwa
kâwîcêwat | Yes, who is this that
you are with? |
| A. | Iyaw, nitôtêm awa | Oops, this is my friend. |

- B. (to C) Tân'si,
Tân'sîsîyihkâsoyan Hi!
how are you called?
(What is your name?)
- C.
nit'sîyihkâson is my name.
- B. Tân'tê ohci Where are you from?
- C. I am from
nitohcîn
- B. Wahwâ, tâpwê wahyaw Wow, that's far!
kik'skêyimâw cî Do you know

êkotê ohci from there?
- C. 'Mwâc No.
- B. Kiyâm That's okay,
nitôtêm anêwako he is my friend.
- A. êkosi, There,
ê-n'to-mîcisoyahk oma; we are going to eat,
âsay cî kiya have you
kikîmîcison eaten yet?
- B. N'mêskwa Not yet.
A. âstam mâka, Come with us then,
wîcêwinân come.

Glossary

III. ASKING FOR SOMEONE: ANIMATE NOUNS

1. Tâniwâ Where is (for singular)?
2. Tâniwêhkâk Where are (for plural)?
3. Tâniwâ ana Where is that ?
4. Tâniwêhkâk aniki Where are those ?

Note:

Animate noun plural forms all end in "k"; rules for pluralizing are few; (i) most nouns simply require the addition of "ak" to the singular, but; (ii) for those ending in "m" or "k" add "wak" to the singular, (iii) for those ending in long "î" add "yak", and; (iv) for those ending in "a" add "k".

Animate Nouns:

people's names	- Salamô	nitôtêm	- my friend
atim	- a dog	kitôtêminaw	- our friend
nâpêw	- a man	kisîmis	- your younger kin
nâpêsis	- a boy	kistês	- your older brother
iskwêw	- a woman	kimis	- your older sister
iskwêsis	- a girl	kohtâwî	- your father
okimâw	- a boss	kikâwî	- your mother
okiskinwahamâkêw	- a teacher	kohkom	- your grandmother
awâsis	- a child	kimosôm	- your grandfather
kinîkikhkwak	- your parents	okimâhkân	- a chief
apoy	- a paddle	asinî	- a stone
mitâs	- a pair of pants	astis	- a mitt
asikan	- a sock	tâpiskâkan	- a tie / scarf
mistik	- a tree	mîtos	- a poplar tree
êmihkwân	- a spoon	akohp	- a blanket
okiskinwahamâkan	- a student	askihk	- a pail
masinahikanahcikos	- a pen/pencil	ayamihêwikimâw	- a preacher

Glossary

IV. ASKING FOR SOMETHING: INANIMATE NOUNS

1. Tâniwê Where is (singular)?
2. Tâniwêhâ Where are (plural)?
3. Tâniwê anima Where is that ?
4. Tâniwêhâ anihi Where are those ?

Note:

All inanimate plurals end in "a". Here are the rules: (i) in general, simply add "a" to the noun; (ii) add "wa" when the noun ends in "k"; (iii) when the noun ends with a short vowel, drop the vowel and add "a"; (iv) for those ending in long vowels add "ya".

Inanimate Nouns:

kiskinwahamâtowikamik	- a school	ayamihêwikamik	- a church
atâwikamik	- a store	ahkosîwikamik	- a hospital
pântwahpis	- a band office	simâkan'sîwikamik	- a police station
masinahikan	- a book	ayamâkan	- a telephone
miskotâkay	- a jacket/coat	talahpôn	- a telephone
kîkih	- your home	wâskâhikan	- a house
kapîsîwikamik	- a hotel/motel	pahkêkin	- leather
mîcisowikamik	- a restaurant	pahkêkinwaskisin	- a moccasin
mîsîwikamik	- a lavatory	têhtapiwin	- a chair
iskwahtêm	- a door	pân-hâl	- a band hall
pakôwayân	- a shirt	oyâkan	- a plate
cîstahasîpon	- a fork	mîcisowinahtik	- a table
sêhkêpayîs	- a car	ôsih	- a boat

[Forgive the liberties I've taken in borrowing from the English]

V. ASKING DIRECTIONS: IN GENERAL USED WITH VERBS

1. Tân'tê Where is ?
2. Tâ'tê anima Where is that ?
3. Tâ'ta Where is ?

Verbs that can be used in the above blanks:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ... Kâ-mâmawapinâniwik | they are holding the meeting? |
| ... Kâ-îcisonânowik | they are holding a banquet? |
| ... Kâ-mêtawânowik | they are holding sports events? |
| ... Kâ-wîkiyan | you live/reside? |
| ... Kâ-wîkit (name) | <input type="text"/> lives/resides? |
| ... Kâ-yâcîk (names) | <input type="text"/> are they? |
| ... takî-kapîsiyân | ... can I stay the night? |
| ... takî-mîcisoyân | ... can I eat? |
| ... takî-pakâsimoyân | ... can I swim? |
| ... takî-kwâskwêpicikiyân | ... can I go fishing? |
| ... takî-piminawasoyân | ... can I cook? |
| ... takî-mânokêyân | ... can I set up camp? |
| ... takî-atâwêyân <input type="text"/> | ... can I buy <input type="text"/> ? |
| ... takî-nitahtâmoyân <input type="text"/> | ... can I borrow <input type="text"/> ? |
| ... takî-atotamân <input type="text"/> | ... can I rent <input type="text"/> ? |

VI. 1. OTHER QUESTIONS: most of these can be used on their own;

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Tânimêwako (Noun I) | Which (I noun) |
| Tânêwako (Noun A) | Which (A noun) |
| Kîkway | What/pardon? |

Kíkway ôma
Awînâwa
Tânîkohk
Tântahto
Tântahtwasiyêk
Tânêhki

What is this?
Who is this?
How much?
How many?
How many of you are there?
Why/How come?

2. a) Simple Requests: I

1. Nikakî- cî ôta. May/Can I here?

Verbs: to be placed in the above blank;

-nîpawin	stand
-apin	sit
-kapîsin	stay the night
-nakatên (cî ôta) ôhi	leave these (I)
-nakatâw (cî ôta) awa	leave this (An)
-pêhon	wait
-kapân	get off
-atoskân	work
-mîcison	eat
-talahpônwin (...) ohci	phone from

b) Simple Requests: You

2. Kakî- cî Would/Might/Can you ?

Verbs: to be used in the above blank;

-wîcihin	help me
-itwêstamawin	translate for me
-wîcêwin	come with me
-minahin	give me a drink
-pihtwâhin	give me a smoke

3. Kakî-minahin cî Would/Can you give me a drink of:

nipiy	water?
maskîhkîwâpoy	tea?
nihtî	tea?
(kahpî)	coffee?
pihkatêwâpoy	coffee?

4. Kakî-masinhên cî ôta:

Can you write here:

kiwêhowin your name?
 ita kê-wîkiyan where you live?
 ita kê-wîkit where he/she lives?
 owêhowin his/her name?
 owêhowiniwâwa their names?
 otakihtâsowin his/her number?
 kitasotamâkê-akihtâsowin your Treaty number?

c. Simple Requests: (Want)

1. Ninohtê I want ...

-mîcison	to eat.
-nipân	to sleep.
-kîwân	to go home.
-kwâskwêpicikân	to go fishing.

2. Ninohtê-itohtân I want to go ...

iskonikanihk	to the reserve.
mîsîwikamikohk	to the lavatory.
(careful with this one!)	
atâwikamikohk	to the store.
ôtênâhk	to town.
sâkahikanihk	to the lake.

3. Ninohtê-wâpamâw I want to see ...

okimâhkân	the chief.
okiskinwahamâkêw	the teacher.
simâkanis	the policeman.
oyasowêwiyiniw	the councillor (Band).

4. (a) Ninohtêkatân I'm hungry.
 (b) Ninohtêkâtân I want to hide it.

5. Ninohtêkwasin I'm sleepy.

6. Ninohtê-atâwân (noun) I want to buy .
 Tân'tê ôma takî-atâwêyân ôhi Where can I buy these?

VII. MODALS: CAN, MAY, COULD, WOULD, SHOULD, MIGHT

1. Kakî-nêhiyawân cî. or Can you speak Cree?
Kinihtâ-nêhiyawân cî.
- Kakî-âkayâsîmon cî. or Can you speak English?
 Kinihtâ-âkayâsîmon cî.
2. Nikakî-astahcikon cî ôhôta Can/May I leave these
 here (for safe keeping)?
Nikakî-astân cî ôhôta Can/May I put these here?
3. Kakî-nâtâw cî okimâhkân Could/Would you get the
 chief?
4. Namacî mâka âsay takî-takosihk Shouldn't he have arrived?
 OR
 Isn't it so, he should've
 arrived already?
5. Nikakî-wâpahtên nâ kitahkosî- May/Can I see your hospi-
wasinahikan talization card?
Nikakî-wâpahtên nâ kitasotamâkê- May/Can I see your Treaty
wasinahikan card?

Most verbs can be placed in the blanks below:

Nikakî-nâ. Can/May/Might I ?

*(ki) kakî-nâ. Can/Might/Could/Would you?

takî-nâ. Can/Could/Would he ?

*ki is dropped or most cases.

VIII. SOME COMMON WORDS:

big/small	misi/apisci (add noun after these)
quick/slow	papâsi/nisihkâc (add verb after these)
early/late	wîpac/mwêstas
cheap/expensive	wîhtakihtêw/mistakihtêw
near/far	kêhciwâk/wahyaw
hot/cold	temp: kisitêw/tahkâw
	weather: kisâstêw/tahkâyâw
full	sâkaskinêw (I)
easy/difficult	wihcasin/nayihtâwan/âyiman
heavy/light	kosikwan/yahkasin
open(it is) /shut	yôhtêkotêw/kipahikâtêw
right/wrong(it is)	kwayaskwastêw/namastêw
old/new	kayâsâyowin/oskâyowin
old/young person	kisêyaya/oskiyaya
Elder	Kêhtêyaya
beautiful/ugly (In)	miyonâkwan/mâyâtan
beautiful/ugly (An)	miyonâkosiw/mâyâtisiw
beautiful (fair)	miywâkâtisiw
good/bad (I)	miywâsin/mâyâtan
good/bad (A)	miyosiw/mâyâtisiw
better (that's)	êkosi nawac/nahîyikohk
worse (it's getting)	nawac mâyihtâkwan
all	kahkiyaw
everybody	pokâwiyak
carefully	pêyahtak

Glossary

IX. SOME USEFUL WORDS:

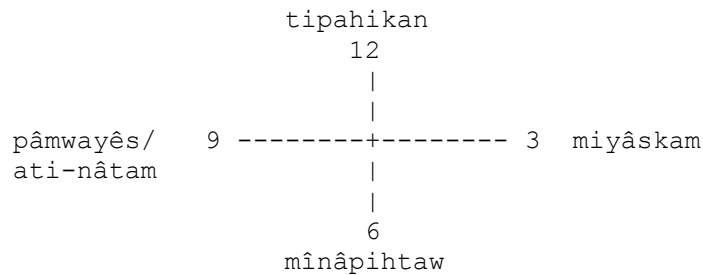
yes	âha/ihî
no/not	namôya
at/in/on/to	-ihk, -ohk, âhk, hk, to ends of n's depending on n ending. -ihk for most nouns -ohk for those n's ending in k. -âhk for those n's ending in "aw" by first dropping -aw
from	ohci
inside	pihcâyihk
outside	wayawîtimihk
up	ispimihk
down	nihcâyihk

down (on the floor/ground)	mohcihk
before (action)	-mwayî- (pre-verb)
after (action) /stop	-pôni- (pre-verb)
through	-sâpo- (pre-verb)
towards	itihkî
until	pâtimâ
for now	pitamâ
during/in process of	-mêkwâ- (pre-verb)
and/then	êkwa
or	awikâci/âhpô
also	êkwa mîna
nothing/none	namakway
no where	mônân'tawitê
very/extremely	-misi- (pre-verb)
soon/early	wîpac
perhaps/maybe	âhpô êtokwê
here	ôta
there	anita
now	anohc/mêkwâc ôma
then (at that time)	êkospî
a lot	mistahi/mihcêt
there's a lot (In)	mihcêtinwa
there's a lot (An)	mihcêtiwak
thank you	kinanâskomitin/têniki
please	mâhti
that's alright	namanântaw/kiyâm
I (in answer to who?)	niya
I too/also	nîsta mîna
I (in verb phrase)	ni-
you	kiya
you too/also	kîsta
you (in verb phrase)	ki-
we (but not one spoken to)	niyanân (exclusive)
we (includes one spoken to)	kiyânaw (inclusive)
we (excl.) in verb phrase	ni-
we (incl.) in verb phrase	ki-
we too/also (excl.)	nîstanân
we too/also (incl.)	kîstanaw
he/she/it (to/also)	wiya (wîsta)
they (too)	wiyawâw (wîstawâw)
no verb phrase marker for third person	

Glossary

X. TIME :

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Tânitahto tipahikan ôma | - | What time (is it?) |
| | Plus | | |
| | kâwî-mâwawapinâniwik | - | (What time) will the meeting be? |
| 2. | Pêyak tipahikan | - | One o'clock |
| | Plus | | |
| | mînâpihtaw | - | One thirty |
| 3. | Cipahikanis | - | minute |



Saying the time in Cree is fairly straight forward

- a) for past the hour you would say
 eg. Nîs'tanaw cipahikanis miyâskam nîso tipahikan 2:20
 number of minutes past number of hour
 Twenty past two o'clock (2:20)
- b) for toward the hour the formula is the same except for miyâskam you would use pâmwayês or ati-nâtam:**
 eg. Nîs'tanaw cipahikanis pâmwayês/ati-nâtam nisto tipahikan
 number of minutes toward/going to number of hour
 twenty minutes to three (2:40)
- c) for on the hour you would say:
 eg. Nêwo tipahikan
 number hour
 four o'clock (4:00)
- d) for half past the hour you say:
 eg. Niyânan tipahikan mînâpihtaw
 number of hour plus half
 five thirty (5:30)

XI. NUMBERS

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1. pêyak | 6. nikotwâsik |
| 2. nîso | 7. têpakohp |
| 3. nisto | 8. ayinânêw |
| 4. nêwo | 9. kêkâmitâtaht |
| 5. niyânan | 10. mitâtaht |

11-18 simply add -sâp- to the above ending in "o" and "osâp" to those ending in a constant.

19 kêkâmitâtahtosâp **or** kêkânîs'tanaw

20 nîs'tanaw

21-28 use "nîs'tanaw" plus those same numbers from 11-18 or use "nis'tanaw" plus "ayiwâk" and numbers 1-8

- eg. 1) nîs'tanaw nîsosâp is 22 **or** nîs'tanaw ayiwâk nîso
- 2) nîs'tanaw kêkâmitâtahtosâp is 29 or kêkâ-nistomitanaw

The above two rules apply to all below:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 30 nistomitanaw | 40 nê'mitanaw |
| 50 niyânanomitanaw | 60 nikotwâsikomitanaw |
| 70 têpakohpimitanaw | 80 ayinânêmitanaw |
| 90 kêkâmitâtahtomitanaw | 100 mitâtahtomitanaw |

Glossary

XII. TIME PHRASES

Common Expressions:...place time here in blanks.

1. I'll meet you at tomorrow.

Kika-nakiskâtin wâpahki

in the morning kîkisêpâyâki
at noon âpihtâkîsikâki
in the afternoon pônâpihtâkîsikâki
late afternoon/early evening ... otâkosiki

at night tipiskâki

2. I'll see you at tomorrow.
Kika-wâpamitin wâpahki
3. I want to see you at tomorrow.
Kinohtê-wâpamitin wâpahki
4. Come see me tomorrow at .
Pê-wâpamihkan wâpahki
5. Come visit me tomorrow at .
Pê-kiyokawihkan wâpahki
6. Can you come see me at tomorrow?
Kakî-pê-wâpamin nâ wâpahki
7. What time does the store, etc. close?
Tânitahto tipahikan kâ-kipahikâtêk

BUILDINGS:

atâwêwikamik	=> store
âhkosîwikamik	=> hospital
maskihkîwikamikos	=> clinic
kiskinwahamâtowikamik	=> school
pântwâhpis	=> Band Office
simâkanisîwikamik	=> Police Station
kipahotowikamik	=> Jail

To use the above in a sentence asking, or talking about location, you need to add the following locative endings:

- 1) ihk to most nouns
- 2) ohk if the noun ends in k
- 3) hk if the noun ends in a long vowel
- 4) âhk if the noun ends in -aw but you must first drop the -aw.

Place the nouns with the proper locative endings in the blanks below:

8. What time is open?
Tânitahto tipahikan kâ-yohtênikâtêk .
9. When is the meeting? Tânispihk kâ-mâmawipinânowik
When is the dance? Tânispihk kâ-nîmihitowinâniwik **or**
Tânispihk kâ-nîmowinâniwik

When is the movie? Tânispihk kâ-cikâstêpayihcikâniwik
When are we going fishing? Tânispihk kâ-wî-nitawi-kwâskwêpicikiyahk

10. When is the open?
Tânispihk kâ-yohtênikâtêk .

Possible answers to the above questions

11. after .
pôni - .

after the meeting	pôni-mâmapinâniwiki
after the wedding	pôni-wîkihtonânowiki
after the feast	pôni-wîhkônânowiki
after the games	pôni-mêtawânowiki
after church service	pôni-ayamihêwinânowiki

12. (The above forms minus the pôni- can be placed in the blank).

before .
mwayî- .

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 13. early | wîpac |
| 14. yesterday | otâkosîhk |
| 15. day before yesterday | awasi-tâkosîhk |
| 16. already | âsay |
| 17. not yet | namacêskwa |
| 18. Later | nwêstas |
| 19. Later on | pâtimâ |
| 20. Not for now | Namôya pitamâ |
| 21. In a little while | Wîpacîs |
| 22. A little while later | Pâcimâsîs |
| 23. Never | Namôya wîhkâc |
| 24. Every now and then | âyâskaw |
| 25. Sometimes | âskaw |
| 26. All the time | kapê |
| 27. Forever and ever | kâkikê mîna kâkikê |

28. For as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.
Isko pîsim ta-sâkâsot, maskosîya ta-ohpikihki, êkwa sîpîya ta-pimâpotêki.

Glossary

XIII. DAYS OF THE WEEK

Sunday (it is)	Ayamihêwikîsikâw
Monday (it is)	Pêyakokîsikâw

Tuesday (it is)	Nîsokîsikâw
Wednesday (it is)	Nîstokîsikâw
Thursday (it is)	Nêwokîsikâw
Friday (it is)	Niyânanokîsikâw
Saturday (it is)	Mâtinâwikîsikâw

2. FUTURE

When Sunday comes Ayamihêwikîsikâki
 = When it is Sunday

- for these future conditions of events simply drop the "w" from the above days and add "-ki"

3. PAST

When it was Sunday kâ-kî-ayamihêwikîsikâk

- for these past events add "kâ-kî" to the above days of the week at the beginning then add "k" at the end after the "w" has been dropped

4. OTHER TEMPORAL WORDS

This week	anohc kêspayik
Next week	kotak-ispayiki
Last week	otahk-ispayiw
Tomorrow	wâpahki
The day after tomorrow	awasi-wâpahki
Yesterday	otâkosîhk
The day before yesterday	awasitâkosîhk
Last night	tipiskohk
The night before last	awasi-tipiskohk

Glossary

XIV. DATES

1. It is January 7th.
 Têpakohp akimâw kisêpîsim

It is September 13th.
 Nistosâp akimâw takwâkipîsim

The date always comes first then akimâw followed by the month.

2. When is your birthday? Tânispihk kâ-tipiskaman.

3. When it is September 13.
 Nistosâp akimihci takwâkipîsim.

akimâw	- it is counted	- for present date
akimihci	- it is counted	- for future date

kâ-kî-akimiht - it was counted - for the past date

These forms always come after the date.

4. TânimêwakwAskiy? Which year?
- the answer to this will always be in English.
5. A holiday - aywêpowinêwikîsikâw
6. Christmas - man'tôwi-kîsikâw or makosîkîsikâw
When it is Christmas: drop w from the above then add -ki.

Glossary

XV. MONTHS (These may vary as to locale.)

January	kisêpîsim
February	mikisiwipîsim
March	niskipîsim
April	ayîkipîsim
May	sâkipakâwipîsim
June	pâskâwihâwipîsim
July	paskowipîsim
August	ohpahowipîsim
September	nôcihitowipîsim
	takwâkipîsim
October	pimihâwipîsim
November	ihkopîwipîsim
	îyîkopîwipîsim
December	pawâcakinâsîsipîsim
	makosîkîsikanipîsim
	man'tôwikîsikâwipîsim

Glossary

XVI. SEASONS

1. **PRESENT SEASONS:**

Spring (ice breakup)	miyoskamin
Spring	sîkwan
Summer	nîpin
Fall	takwâkin

Fall (early winter) mikiskon
Winter pipon

2. FUTURE SEASONS:

- future conditions: use the above root minus last "n" then add "hki"
eg. when it is spring => sîkwahki

3. PAST SEASON:

- Past, as in last season: use the above root plus "ohk"
eg. Last spring => sîkwanohk

Glossary

XVII. LIKES AND DISLIKES

1. I like (In) Nimiwêyihtên
2. I like (An) Nimiwêyimâw
3. I don't like (In) Namôya nimiwêyihtên
4. I don't like (An) Namôya nimiwêyimâw
5. Do you like ?(In) Kimiwêyihtên cî
6. Do you like ?(An) Kimiwêyimâw cî

*To negate any verb simply put "namôya" in front of entire verb structure.

To ask a polarity question (i.e. one requiring a "yes" or "no" answer) put "cî" or "nâ" in second position of clause. A question can be asked in two ways:

1. You can use polarity questions with cî or nâ: eg. Can I sit here? 1) nikakî-apin cî ôta. 2) ôta cî nikakî-apin.
2. You can use content questions with what, when, where, who, how, etc.. These "tân" words always come in the beginning.

NOTE: Combining cî with content (i.e. tân - words) questions are impossible hence:

*Tân'tê cî kê-wîkiyan is nonsensical.

Glossary

XVIII. VERBS: A Brief Survey of the Most Common

Verbs in Cree come in three modes: the Imperative, Indicative, and Subjunctive. Of these only the Imperative and Indicative need attention in this volume as the Subjunctive is used in more complex situations (some forms, out necessity, have been introduced with -tân- questions). Also verbs are divided into various classes depending on the gender of the Object in Transitive Verbs and on the gender of the Subject in Intransitive Verbs. The VERB CHARTS section contains the most common paradigms of these verbs. We shall begin with Animate Intransitive (AI) Verbs.

1. Imperatives (included here is the invitational form - "let's") of AI verbs. These are commands. Out of these come the verb roots to be applied to the Indicative mood with little or no change. These divided into three forms:

2	mîciso	eat (said to one person)
2P	mîcisok	eat (said to 2 or more people)
21	mîcisotân	let's eat

All AI verbs follow this pattern for the Imperative mood.

2		is the root
2P	k	add k to root
21	tân	add tân to root

You can also make Negative Imperatives by simply adding êkâwiya in front of the above forms.

eg. êkâwiya mîciso - Don't eat.

2. VERB STRUCTURE: you can arrange all verbs in the following manner:

[ê or Person Indicator][tense] - [pre-verb][verb-root][verb ending]

The VERB CHARTS section contains the paradigms for all the main verb classes.

ANIMATE INTRANSITIVE VERB ROOTS

api	- sit	pimohtê	- walk
atoskê	- work	pâhpi	- laugh
pwâtisimo	- dance pow-wow	pimipahtâ	- run
mâto	- cry	nîmihito	- dance
pasikô	- get up	âkayâsîmo	- speak English
waniskâ	- get up (out of bed)	piminawaso	- cook
nipâ	- sleep	kîwê	- go home
mîciso	- eat	nahapi	- sit down
nêhiyawê	- speak Cree	nîmâ	- pack a lunch
mâmawapi	- meet (name a meeting)	minihkwê	- drink
masinahikê	- write	kawisimo	- lie down
mêtawê	- play	kâsihkê	- wash up
ayamihcikê	- read (go to school)	kîsitêpo	- cook
sipwêhtê	- leave	kotawê	- make a fire
sîsâwipahtâ	- jog	kiyokê	- visit
pahkwêsikanihkê	- make bannock		

Animate Intransitive Verbs need no object as these forms can stand on their own to form complete sentences.

4. INANIMATE INTRANSITIVE VERBS:

Other Intransitives include terms for weather and colors. These are the **Inanimate Intransitives**. They have no Imperatives but they do have the Indicative and Subjunctive moods.

Indicative	(Weather Terms)	Subjunctive
kimiwan	It is raining	ê-kimiwahk
kimiwasin	It's drizzling	ê-kimiwasik
wâsêskwan	It's sunny	ê-wâsêskwahk
yikwaskwan	It's cloudy	ê-yikwaskwahk
mispon	It's snowing	ê-mispok
miyokîsikâw	It's a nice day	ê-miyokîsikâk
mâyikîsikâw	It's a miserable day	ê-mâyikîsikâk
macikîsikâw	It's a miserable day	ê-macikîsikâk
yôtin	It's windy	ê-yôtihk
aywâstin	It's calm	ê-aywâstihk

5. COLORS

a) Inanimate Colors: to be used with Inanimate nouns:

	it is Red	
INDICATIVE MOOD	it is White	SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD
mihkwâw		ê-mihkwâk
wâpiskâw	it is Orange	ê-wâpiskâk
osâwâw		ê-osâwâk
wâposâwâw	it is Yellow	ê-wâposâwâk
askihtakwâw		ê-askihtakwâk
sîpikwâw	it is Green	ê-sîpikwâk
kaskitêwâw		ê-kaskitêwâk
	it is Blue	
	it is Black	

Note: The above are used to describe the color of Inanimate Objects only; for Animate Objects the same form is used minus the ending of these II terms and "isiw", "siw" or "osiw" is added.

b) Animate Colors:

INDICATIVE MOOD	SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD
mihkosiw	ê-mihkosit
wâpiskisiw	ê-wâpiskisit
osâwisiw	ê-osâwisit
wâposâwisiw	ê-wâposâwisit

askihtakosiw	ê-askihtakosit
sîpikhkosiw	ê-sîpikhkosit
kaskitêsiw	ê-kaskitêsit

6. TENSES

All verbs are structured the same way with person indicators (subject) or ê being first; the tense indicators follow; then the pre-verbs; then the verb-roots; and lastly, the verb ending depending on the subject of the verb. Here are the tense indicators:

kî - is the past tense indicator
wî - is the future intentive indicative for possible futures
ta - is the definite future indicator for third person subjects
ka - is the definite future indicator for first and second person subjects.

7. TRANSITIVE VERBS

... are those verbs which require an object. This requirement applies to all moods: the Imperative, Indicative and the Subjunctive. Transitive Verbs are of two main types: the Transitive Inanimate verbs and the Transitive Animate verbs. The gender of the object determine which verb to use.

The following are the more common Transitive verbs:

a) TRANSITIVE VERB PAIRS:

Transitive Animate Verbs	English	Transitive Inanimate Verbs
môw	eat him/it	mîci
wâpam	see him/it	wâpahta
kanawâpam	look at him/it	kanawâpahta
kitâpim	watch him/it	kitâpahta
nâkatawêyim	take care of him/it	nâkatawêyihta
otin	take him/it	otina
sâmin	touch him/it	sâmina
mîskon	feel him/it	mîskona
natohtaw	listen to him/it	natohta
pêhtaw	hear him/it	pêhta
paswâs	smell him/it	paswâhta
miyâm	smell him/it	miyâhta
kocispis	taste him/it	kocispita
nâs	get him/it	nâta
pêsiw	bring him/it	pêtâ
itwah	point to him/it	itwaha
itohtah	transport him/it	itohtatâ
masinahamaw	write (to) him/it	masinaha

b) TRANSITIVE ANIMATE VERBS WITHOUT TIV COUNTERPARTS

wîsâm	invite him
wîcêw	accompany him
wîcih	help him
mîy	give it to him
asam	feed him
wihtamaw	tell him

âcimostaw tell him a story/news
 pihtwâh give him a smoke
 minah give him a drink

Glossary

XIX. VERB CHARTS

AIV, TIV (class 2 and class 3)

Imperative Mood

2		
2P		k
21		tân

Delayed Imperative

2		hkan
2P		hkêk
21		hkahk

Indicative Mood

1 Ni n	1P Ni nân
2 Ki n	21 Ki naw
3 w	2P Ki nâwâw
3' yiwa	21 Ki wak
	3'P yiwa

Subjunctive Mood

1 ê- yân	1P ê- yâhk
2 ê- yan	21 ê- yahk
3 ê- t	2P ê- yêk
3' ê- yit	3P ê- cik
	3'P ê- yit

RULE: change ê to â for the Indicative Mood in the following persons: 1, 2, 1P, 21, 2P (the first and second persons) if verb-root ends in ê.

TIV class 1

Imperative Mood

2		a
2P		amok
21		êtân

Delayed Imperative

2		amohkan
2P		amohkêk
21		amohkahk

RULE: all verb-roots of TI class 1 verbs end in "a"; change the "a" to ê for 21 of the Imperative Mood and the first and second persons of the Indicative Mood. This change is reflected in these charts.

Indicative Mood

1 Ni ên	1P Ni ênân
--	---

Subjunctive Mood

1 ê- mân	1P ê- mâhk
---	---

2 Ki [] ên	21 Ki [] ênaw	2 ê- [] man	21 ê- [] mahk
3 [] am	2P Ki [] ênâwâw	3 ê- [] hk	2P ê- [] m êk
3' [] amiyit	21 Ki [] amwak	3' ê- [] miyit	3P ê- [] hkik
	3'P [] amiyit		3'P ê- [] miyit

TAV-DIRECT

Imperative Mood

2 [] (ik)
2P [] ik(ok)
21 [] âtan(ik)

Delayed Imperative

2 [] âhkan(ik)
2P [] âhkêk(ok)
21 [] âhkahk(ik)

Indicative Mood

1 Ni [] âw(ak)	1P Ni [] ânân
2 Ki [] âw(ak)	21 Ki [] ânaw
3 [] êw	2P Ki [] âwâw
3' [] êyiwa	21 Ki [] êwak
	3'P [] êyiwa

Subjunctive Mood

1 ê- [] ak(ik)	1P ê- [] âyâhk(ik)
2 ê- [] at(cik)	21 ê- [] âyahk(ik)
3 ê- [] ât	2P ê- [] âyêk(ok)
3' ê- [] âyit	3P ê- [] âcik
	3'P ê- [] âyit

Glossary

XX. GLOSSARY

English to Cree: these are words which are not so easy to find in their appropriate sections. All the words from this handbook do not appear in this section. Check the appropriate sections for months, numbers, etc.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p r s t w y

about	nânitaw
accompany him (TAV)	wîcêw
accompany me	wîcêwin
already	âsay
arrive (AIV)	takosini
arrive by foot (AIV)	takohtê
band office (I)	pântwahpis
band hall (I)	pân-hâl
be at home (AIV)	apiff

be named (AIV)	isîyihkâso
bee (A)	âmôw
bead (A)	mîkis
berry (I)	mînis
blanket (A)	akohp
boat (I)	ôsih
book (I)	masinahikan
borrow (AIV)	nitahâtâmo
boss (A)	okimâw
boy (A)	nâpêsis
buck (deer, etc.)	îyapîw
but	mâka
buy (AIV)	atâwê
camp (AIV)	kapîsi
camp-site (I)	kapîsiwin
camp (set tent) (AIV)	mânokê
canoe (I)	cimân
car (I)	sêhkêpayîs
cat (A)	minôs/pôsis
chair (I)	têhtapiwin
child (A)	awâsis
Chief (A)	okimâhkân
church (I)	ayamihêwikamik
clinic (I)	maskihkîwikamikos
coat/jacket (I)	miskotâkay
coffee (I)	pihkatêwâpoy
come	âstam
come over (AIV)	pê-itohtê
cook (AIV)	piminawaso
cook (AIV)	kîsitêpo
counsellor	oyasowêwiyiniw
Cree person	Nêhiyaw
dance (AIV)	nîmihto
dance-hall (I)	nîmihitowikamik
dance pow-wow (AIV)	pwâtisimo
do (TIV)	itôta
dog (A)	atim
a door (I)	iskwahtêm
eat (AIV)	mîciso
eat it (TIV,3)	mîci
eat it (TAV)	môw
eating (there is)	mîcisonânowin
eventually (Adv)	pîyisk
eventually (Adv)	kêtahtawê
exist (AIV)	ayâ
far	wahyaw
feast (make) (AIV)	wihkôhkê
feast (there is a)	wihkôhkânowin
feed the fire (AIV)	pôna
fine	namôya nânitaw
fish (A)	kinosêw
fish (angle) (AIV)	kwâskwêpicikê

fork (I)	cîstahasîpon
from	ohci
from there	êkotê ohci
girl (A)	iskwêsis
get it (TAV)	nâs
get it (TIV)	nâta
get off (AIV)	kapâ
give him (TAV)	mîy
give me (TAV-Inv)	mîyin
give him a drink (TAV)	minah
give me a drink (TAV)	minahin
give him a smoke (TAV)	pihtâh
give me a smoke	pihtwâhin
go home (AIV)	kîwê
have (TIV)	ayâ
have (TAV)	ayâw
help him (TAV)	wîcih
help me (TAV-Inv)	wîcihin
here (location)	ôta
here (give)	nah
hide (AIV)	kâsô
hide him (TAV)	kâs
hide it (TIV)	kâtâ
his/her nose (I)	okot
his name (I)	owêhowin
his number (I)	otakihtâsowin
his work (I)	otatoskêwin
horse (A)	mistatim
hospital (I)	ahkosîwikamik
hospitalization number (I)	ahkosîwasinahikan
hotel/motel (I)	kapîsîwikamik
house (I)	wâskâhikan
how	tânisi
How are you?	tânisi
How many?	tânitahto
How many are you?	tânitahtwasiyêk
How much?	tânîkohk
Hungry (be) (AIV)	nohtêkatê
Indian (A)	lyiniw
It doesn't matter	kiyâm
It is deep (IIV)	timîw
It is night (IIV)	tipiskâw
January	kisêpîsim
June	pâskâwihâwipîsim
July	paskowipîsim
knife (I)	mohkomân
know him (TAV)	kiskêyim
know it (TIV)	kiskêyihta
lake (I)	sâkahikan
later on	pâtimâ

later	mwêstas
lavatory (I)	mîsîwikamik
leaf (I)	nîpî
leather (I)	pahkêkin
leave it (TAV)	nakas
leave it (TIV)	nakata
little	apisîs
log (I)	mistik
lower	capasis
man (A)	nâpêw
meet (TAV)	nakiskaw
meet it (TIV)	nakiskâta
meeting (have a) (AIV)	mâmawapi
meeting (there is a)	mâmawapinânôwin
mitt (A)	astis
moccasin	pahkêkinwaskisin
money (A)	sôniyâw
more	awasimê
moon	tipiskâwipîsim
my friend (A)	nitôtêm
nail (I)	sakahikan
nail (AIV)	sakahikê
no	namôya
no (slang)	'mwâc
Not yet	namêskwa
nice day	miyo-kîsikâw
nurse (A)	maskihkîwiskwêw
oops!	iyaw
Or	âhpô
or else (compare)	awikâcî
our friend	kitôtêminaw
over there	nêtê
paddle (A)	apoy
pail (A)	askihk
pair of pants (A)	mitâs
pen/cil (A)	masinahikanachcikos
perhaps	âhpô êtokwe
plate	oyâkan
play (AIV)	mêtawê
play (there is)	mêtawânôwin
Police	simâkanis
Police Station	simâkanisîwikamik
poplar/aspen	mîtos
preacher (A)	ayamihêwikimâw
presently (Adv)	mêkwâc
put (AIV)	astâ
rabbit (A)	wâpos
rent (TIV)	atota
reserve (I)	askihk
reserve (I)	iskonikan
reside/live at (AIV)	wîki

restaurant (I)	mîcisowikamik
same	pêyakwan
scarf (A)	tâpiskâkan
school (I)	kiskinwahamâtowikamik
sit	api
sit down (AIV)	nahapi
shirt (I)	pakôwayân
shoe (I)	maskisin
sleep (AI)	nipâ
sleepy (be) (AIV)	nohtêkwasi
sock (A)	asikan
some (Adj)	âtiht
speak (AIV)	pîkiskwê
speak Cree (AIV)	nêhiyawê
speak English (AIV)	âkayâsimo
spoon (A)	êmihkwân
stand (AIV)	nîpawi
stand up (AIV)	pasikô
star (A)	acahkos
stone (A)	asinî
stop (AIV)	pôyô
stop (pre-verb)	pôni-
store (I)	atâwikamik
store (AIV)	astahciko
student (A)	okiskinwahamâkan
sun (A)	pîsim
swim (AIV)	pakâsimo
table (I)	mîcisowinahtik
talk (AIV)	ayami
talk about it (TIV)	mâmiskôta
tea (I)	nihtî
tea (I)	askihkiwâpoy
teacher (A)	okiskinwahamâkêw
tell a story (AIV)	âcimo
telephone	ayamâkan
telephone (I)	talahpôn
telephone (AIV)	talahpônowi
that (A)	ana
that (I)	anima
that one	êwako
that one there	anêwako
there!	êkosi
There	êkota
these (A)	ôki
these (I)	ôhi
these here	ôhôtâ
thick (A)	kispakisiw
think (I)	kispakâw
this (A)	awa
this (I)	ôma
this way (show)	omisi
this way (direction)	ôtê isi
those (A)	aniki
those (I)	anihi

tie (A)	tâpiskâkan
town/city	ôtênaw
translate (AIV)	itwêstamâkê
translate for me	itwêstamawin
treaty	asotamâkêwin
treaty number	asotamâkê-akihtâsowin
tree (A)	mistik
true/truly	tâpwê

wait	cêskwa
wait for him (TAV)	pêh
wait for it (TIV)	pêhtâ
wait up (AIV)	pêho
water (I)	nipiy
what	kîkway
what kind	kêko
what kind	tân'towahk
where (general)	tânitê
where (A)	tâniwâ
where (A-pl)	tâniwêhkâk
where (I)	tâniwê
where (I-pl)	tâniwêhâ
where abouts	tân'ta
which (A)	tâna
which (I)	tânimâ
which one (A)	tânêwako
which one (I)	tânimêwako
Who	awîna
Who's this	awînâwa
why	tânêhki
work (AIV)	atoskê
work for him (TAV)	atoskaw
worker (A)	atoskêmâkan
work at it (TIV)	atoskâta
woman (A)	iskwêw
write (AIV)	masinahikê
write (TIV)	masinaha
write to him (TAV)	masinahamaw

yes	âha/ihî
you	kiya
you (marker)	ki-
young man	oskinîkiw
young person	oskiyaya
your eye (I)	kiskîsik
your father	kohtâwî
your grandfather	imosôm
your grandmother	kohkom
your home	kîkih
your house	kiwâskâhikan
your mother	kikâwî
your name	kiwêhowin
your older brother	kistês
your older sister	kimis
your parents	kinîkihikwak
your younger kin	kisîmis

