



S'Í:WES' 4 El Stl'í. Alétse?

I Need It. Where Is It?



Sqwá:l

Achxwu ma kwú:t...	<i>could you get...</i>
axwí:l	<i>small</i>
híkw	<i>big</i>
kwelát	<i>get, have</i>
kw'óxwe	<i>box, chest [pl. kw'ólexwe]</i>
lám	<i>to go [-ing hálém]</i>
lá	<i>to go [shortened form of lám]</i>
ólu	<i>too much, overly, too</i>
léxwtel	<i>blanket [no special plural form]</i>
slhá:li	<i>woman [pl. slhellhá:li]</i>
shxwe'áxeth	<i>bed [pl. shxwe'álexeth]</i>
shxwe'áxetháwt	<i>bedroom [or shxwe'áxetháwtxw; pl. shxwe'álexáwt]</i>
shxwep'életstel	<i>toilet paper ²⁴</i>
slíw	<i>in [used for inside box, object, etc.]</i>
swíyeqe	<i>man [pl. sí:wí:qe]</i>
We is iyólem....	<i>could, would it be okay if....</i>

Sqwéltel

1. Li te shxwe'áxetháwt tel kopû.
My coat is in the bedroom.
2. Li te shxwe'áxetháwt te kopûs.
His/her coat is in the bedroom.
3. Li te shxwe'áxetháwt te kopûs tl' Máli.
Mary's coat is in the bedroom.
4. Síq li te shxwe'áxeth te kopûs.
His/her coat is under the bed.
5. Stl'epólwelh lí te léxwtels te híkw kopûs tl' Máli.
Mary's big coat is under the blanket.

²⁴ This is based on the root word "áp'et", which means "to wipe (it)". The shxw- prefix is often used for devices and tools (though it also has other uses). The -tel ending is very often added onto words for tools and devices, too.

6. Síq lí te shxwe'áxeths te kopús tl' Chól.
John's coat is under his bed.

Qwú:lqwelqweltel 4A

- A. El stl'í te léxwtels tl' Máli. Alétse?
I need Mary's blanket. Where is it?
- B. Lí ta' ítetáwt.²⁵
It's in your bedroom.
- A. Éy. Látselcha kwú:t.²⁶
Good. I'm going to go get it.
- B. Achxwu ma kwú:t tel shxwtóle'ólestel? Sp'lhíq' te skwechóstel.
Could you get my glasses? They're beside the window.

Qwú:lqwelqweltel 4B

- A. El stl'í kw'e shxwep'életstel. Alétse?
I need some toilet paper. Where is it?
- B. Slíw lí te híkw kw'óxwe lí te ítetáwts tl' Máli.
It's in that big box in Mary's bedroom.
- A. Éy. Látselcha kwú:t te shxwep'életstel.
Good. I'm going to go get the toilet paper.
- B. We is iyólem kwút te kopús tl' Máli? Síq te shxwe'áxeths.
Can you get Mary's coat? It's under her bed.

Language Relations and History

The Halq'eméylem language, including all of its varieties or (what is the same thing) dialects, is part of a much larger set of historically related languages. This historically related group is called the *Salish* 'family' of languages.

There are a total of twenty-three languages in the Salish family, spoken in Southern B.C. and extending south into Washington state and Montana. Each language in the family is distinct in the sense that it cannot be understood by speakers of the other languages; however, the languages also share a number of similar features: many vocabulary items in the languages in the family are recognizably related, the sound systems are very similar, and the grammars of the languages, though different, also share many similarities. Linguists who study historical patterns in language generally agree that all of the modern Salish languages are probably descended from an ancient common Salish language, spoken in the area many thousands of years ago.

²⁵ You could also say here "Skwetáxw (li) ta' ítetwt". Skwetáxw means *be in [for house, room, etc.]*.

²⁶ The "it" in this sentence is understood or implied. As noted before, words for *he/she/it* and *they* are often just implied or understood, in Halq'eméylem.

Language Patterns

Regular (Common) Nouns as Possessors

To talk about *the man's N* (where N stands for any noun) in Halq'eméylem, you add the usual -s ending onto the noun, and the possessor follows. For example (swíyeqe meaning *man* and slhá:lí meaning *woman*):

te lá:lém	<i>the house</i>
te lá:léms te swíyeqe	<i>the man's house</i>
te lá:léms the slhá:lí	<i>the woman's house</i>

Proper Names as Possessors

When the possessor is a proper name like *John* or *Mary*, you use a special word t'l' before the name. For example:

te lá:lém	<i>the house</i>
te lá:léms t'l' Chól	<i>John's house</i>
te lá:léms t'l' Máli	<i>Mary's house</i>

The word t'l' is used only before proper names, and only in certain constructions, including this possessive construction. Note that in many other simple sentences in Halq'eméylem, instead of t'l' you will see *te* and *the* before proper names, as in these examples:

Ímex te Chól.	<i>John walks.</i>
Ímex the Máli.	<i>Mary walks.</i>