



S'Í:WES' 5

Lháq'etchexw la te letám.

Put it On the Table



Sqwá:l

shxwtl'ép-ló:thel	<i>bowl [lit. 'deep dish']</i>
sméyeth	<i>meat [Chehalis dialect: smíyeth]</i>
seplí:l	<i>bread</i>
slós	<i>oil, fat, grease</i>
sth'óqwi	<i>fish (also: sthóqwi; pl. sth'óleqwi)</i>
slhíts'es	<i>wind-dried salmon (also: shxwlíts'es)²⁷</i>
slháxelhscha	<i>napkin</i>
xwchélstexw	<i>where did __ put it?</i>

Sqwéltal

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1. Chexw xwchélstexw?
Where did you put it?
 2. Tsel xwchélstexw?
Where did I put it?
 3. Xwchélstexwchexw te seplí:l?
Where do you put the bread?
 4. Lháq'etchexw la te letám te sth'óqwi.
Put the fish on the table.
 5. Stl'itset kwe' slós.
We need some oil.
 6. Síq te sch'áletstels ta' lepó:t.
Your cup is under his/her chair.
 7. Li te kéchel te sméyeth.
The meat is in the kitchen.
 8. Látselcha kwú:t te slhíts'es.
I'll go get the wind-dried salmon.
 9. Stl'itset te seplí:l.
We need the bread.

²⁷ Slhíts'es (also called shxwlhíts'es) refers to wind-dried salmon that is scored, i.e. cut in strips on the skin. Unscored strips of wind-dried salmon are called st'ál.

10. Stl'ítset kw'e seplí:lstexw.
We need some bread.

Qwú:lqwelqweltel 5A

- A. Lháq'etchehw la te letám te s'álhtel.
Put the food on the table.
- B. Iyólem. Xwchélstexwtsel?
Okay. Where do I put it?
- A. Léwexchexw la te híkw shxwtl'ép-ló:thel te ló:ys. Léwexchexw la te axwí:l shxwtl'ep-ló:thel te slhí:ts'es.
Put the rice into the big bowl. Put the wind-dried salmon in the small bowl.
- B. Iyólem.
Okay.

Qwú:lqwelqweltel 5B

- A. Lámtsel lháq'et la te letám te s'álhtel.
I'm going to put the food on the table.
- B. Éy. Stl'ítset kw'e sméyeth qas kw'e seplí:l.
Good. We need some meat and some bread.
- A. Xwchélstexwtsel?
Where do I put them?
- B. Lháq'etchehw la te híkw letám.
Put them on the big table.

Language Relations and History

Within the Salish family, Halq'eméylem (including all of its dialects) is most closely related to languages spoken near the coast. These 'closer relatives' include Squamish, Comox, Sliammon, Sechelt, and Squamish. They are the most similar languages to Halq'eméylem in terms of having the most obviously related vocabulary items, and the most similar grammatical features. Linguists sometimes refer to this 'branch' of the Salish family as *Coast Salish* (or, more precisely, *Central Coast Salish*, since the Southern coastal languages are not particularly closely related to this group).

St'át'imcets (Lillooet) and Nlaka'pamux (Thompson), though they neighbour Halq'eméylem territory, are more distant relatives, linguistically speaking. Those languages, along with several others, form what linguists call the *Interior* branch of the Salishan family.

Language Patterns

You and I at the Start Goes Along with a Past-Tense Interpretation

The -chexw (*you*) and -tsel (*I*) endings can stand alone at the start of the sentence, as opposed to being at the end of the verb. When these endings do appear at the start, it suggests strongly that the action described took place in the past.²⁸ For example:

Chexw ímex.	<i>You walked. [action is in the past]</i>
Ímexchexw.	<i>You walk. [action is in the present]</i>
Tsel ímex.	<i>I walked. [action is in the past]</i>
Ímextsel.	<i>I walk. [action is in the present]</i>

Xwchélstexw

The word xwchélstexw means literally *Where did/do _____ put it?* It can be used with either chexw or tsel (or other words for 'doers', as discussed in later chapters):

Tsel xwchélstexw?	<i>Where did I put it? [action is in the past]</i>
Xwchélstexwtsel?	<i>Where do I put it?</i>
Chexw xwchélstexw?	<i>Where did you put it? [action is in the past]</i>
Xwchélstexwchexw?	<i>Where do you put it?</i>

²⁸ Unlike English, where a past-tense or present-tense ending is required in every sentence, Halq'eméylem sentences normally do not contain any special ending for past or present tense. Whether you mean the action is in the past or in the present is normally understood from context. Halq'eméylem does have a past-tense ending (-elh), which is used in case you want to be unambiguous.