S'í:wes' 6
Li te Kéchel
In the Kitchen

Sqwá:l

lhíts'et	*to cut (it) [-ing* lhílhets'et*]*
málqelexw	*to forget (it) [also pronounced* mélqelexw] *[-ing* mámelqelexw*]*
qó:	*water*
qwélst	*to boil (it) [-ing* qwó:lst*]*
stú:p	*stove*

Sqwéltel

1. Tsel qwélst.
    I boiled it.
2. Qwelsttselcha.
    I will boil it.
3. Chexw qwélst.
    You boiled it.
4. Qwelstchexwcha.
    You will boil it.
5. Qwélstchexwcha kw'e qó:.[35]
    You're going to boil some water.
6. Qwélsttselcha kw'e qó:.
    I'm going to boil some water.
7. Chexw qwélst kw'e qó:.
    You boiled some water
8. Líchexw qwélst kw'e qó:?
    Will you boil the water?
9. Tsel qwélst kw'e qó:.
    I boiled some water?
10. Lí tsel qwélst kw'e qó:.
    Will I boil the water?

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[35] The -cha ending here, and in the next sentence, is the future marker, equivalent to English *will* or *going to.*

Qwú:lqwelqweltel 6A

A   Líchexw qwélst kw'e ló:ys?
     Did you boil some rice?
B.   Lí. Tsel qwélst[36] qesú léwex la ye shxwtl'ép-ló:thel.
     Yes. I boiled it and put it in the bowls.
A.   Qe líchexw lhíts'et te sth'óqwi?
     And did you cut the fish?
B.   Tsel málqelexw. Lítsel lhíts'et?
     I forget. Did I cut it?

Qwú:lqwelqweltel 6B

A   Líchexw qwélst kw'e qó:?
     Did you boil some water?
B.   Lí. Tsel qwélst.[37] Sts'ets'á te stú:p[38].
     Yes. I boiled it.   It's on the stove.
A.   Qe líchexw lhíts'et kw'e seplí:l?
     And did you cut some bread?
B.   Tsel málqelexw. Lítsel lhíts'et?
     I forget. Did I cut it?

Language Relations and History

Halq'eméylem language did not have a standardized writing system until the 1970's. The current writing system was developed by a linguist named Brent Galloway, who worked for a number of years with the Coqualeetza Education Training Centre (an Upriver cultural organization).

The Upriver writing system is different from the writing systems currently in use in Downriver and Island communities.

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[36] Note how the *it* in *boiled it* is not explicitly stated in the Halq'eméylem. Verbs like qwélst, which imply action directed towards an object, are generally understood as being directed towards some *him/her/it* in the context, if no object is explicitly stated.

[37] Again, the *it* is just understood, because this verb is always directed towards some object. You do not need to say *it* explicitly, in Halq'eméylem.

[38] As an alternative you could also say here Sts'álats li te stú:p, which means *It is sitting on the stove.*

Language Patterns

Yes/No Questions in Halq'eméylem

To form a question that requires an answer of *yes* or *no* in Halq'eméylem, you put the 'helper' verb lí at the start of the sentence. Chexw or tsel, if present, must attach onto the end of the lí, as in the following examples (ímex meaning *to walk*):

Ímexchexw. *You walk.*
Líchexw ímex? *Do/Did you walk?*

Ímextsel. *I walk.*
Lítsel ímex? *Do/Did I walk?*

Here lí just marks a yes/no question, and does not mean *in/at/on*, as in previous lessons.[39]

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[39] It is important to know that there are a small number of words, including the verb lam (*to go*) that form *yes/no* questions in a completely different way. Instead of using lí, with lam and the other similar verbs you put an -e or -a ending onto the verb itself. So to ask *Do you go?*, in Halq'eméylem, you say this: Lámechexw? However, only a very small number of Halq'eméylem words use this -e (or -a) ending for yes/no questions, and we will note these special verbs one by one as we encounter them.