



S'í:WES' 9

Li te Lá:lém

At Home

Sqwá:l

ewó:lem	<i>to play [-ing iwó:lem]</i>
éxwtel	<i>broom</i>
íxwet	<i>to sweep (it) [-ing í:xwet]</i>
kwò:lxw	<i>to drop (it)</i>
lhéxéyléptel	<i>floor, floor mat, floor covering, linoleum, rug</i>
tsméth'	<i>blue</i>
tsxwíkw'	<i>grey</i>
yékw'elexw	<i>to break it [by accident]</i>
yókw'em	<i>it broke, to break, get broken</i>

Sqwéltel

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1. Tsel yékw'elexw tel ló:thel.
I broke my plate.
 2. Tsel yékw'elexw.
I broke it.
 3. Yókw'em tel ló:thel.
My plate broke.
 4. Yókw'em.
It broke.
 5. Tset yékw'elexw.
We broke it.
 6. Chap yékw'elexw.
You guys broke it.

Qwú:lqwelqweltel 9A

- A Lichexw yékw'elexw te'í tsméth' ló:thel?
Did you break⁴⁵ this blue plate?
- B. Á:'a. Tsel kwò:lxw ósu yókw'em.⁴⁶
Yes. I dropped⁴⁷ it and it broke.
- A. 'Láhex kwa kwú:t ta' éxwtel su íxwet te'í lhexéyleptel.
Go get your broom and sweep the floor.

Qwú:lqwelqweltel 9B

- A Lichap yékw'elexw te'í tsxwíkw' ló:thel?
Did you guys break this grey plate?
- B. Á:'a. Lilhtset iwó:lem.⁴⁸ Tset kwò:lxw qésu yókw'em.
Yes. We were playing. We dropped it and it broke.
- A. Lá kwú:t ta' éxwtel lósu íxwet.
You go get the broom and sweep.

Vocabulary Patterns

Yékw'elexw vs. Yókw'em

The two verbs yékw'elexw and yókw'em both translate roughly into the English verb *to break*. However, they are used quite differently:

- (1) (a) Yékw'elexwtset te lepót.
I broke it. [Action has both a doer (-tsel) and a receiver (te lepót)]
- (b) Yókw'em te lepót.
The cup broke. [No doer is present, the thing just undergoes the action]

As with the distinctions discussed in the last lesson (e.g. hóqwelexw vs. hóqwem), this is another case where Halq'eméylem uses different verbs depending on whether the action is directed towards some other object or not.

⁴⁵ The Halq'eméylem verb used in this sentence, yékw'elexw, is appropriate only if it is understood that the action was done by accident. If the thing was broken on purpose, a slightly different verb would be used (yókw'et).

⁴⁶ Ósu is a connecting word that does not have a simple translation into English. It can be used like *and*, but it also implies something like *and so*, or *so as to*.

⁴⁷ As with the verb in the previous sentence, the verb here, kwò:lxw, is used only if the action of dropping was done by accident. When talking about dropping something deliberately, you would use a different verb (tséltq).

⁴⁸ The word lílh at the start of this sentence is used to clearly locate the action of playing in the past (technically, lí is an auxiliary with no precise meaning, and the past-tense marker is the -lh ending). You could also just say Tset iwó:lem.

Yes/No Questions with Simple Sentences with Nouns

To form a yes/no question with a simple sentence with a noun, you simply put the regular yes/no question marker *lí* at the start of the sentence. The noun does not move to the front of the sentence. Some examples are shown in the (2).

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| (2) | (a) | Yókw'em te lepót. | <i>The cup broke.</i> |
| | (b) | Lí yókw'em te lepót? | <i>Did the cup break?</i> |
| | (c) | Ímex te swíyeqe. | <i>The man walked.</i> |
| | (d) | Lí ímex te swíyeqe? | <i>Did the man walk?</i> |
| | (e) | T'ílem te slhá:lí. | <i>The woman sang.</i> |
| | (f) | Lí t'ílem te slhá:lí? | <i>Did the woman sing?</i> |