Wáa sá ḵ̲uwatee?

How is the Weather?

Yá Lingit'aaní g̲eix' woosh jin toolshát yeisú
— Katyé

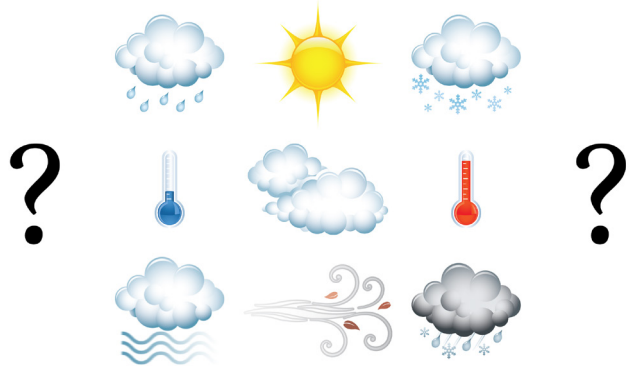
In this world, we're still holding each other's hands
— David Kadashan
(Dauenhaeuer, Haa Tuwunáagu Yís 236-237)

wáa sá k̲uwatee?

This section looks at the weather, and also introduces event-based verb conjugation in Tlingit. When thinking about how the Tlingit language works, it is important to remember that Tlingit is more concerned with the completion of the verb than it is about when the verb occurs. In English, we often refer to things as *past tense*, *present tense*, and *future tense*. In Tlingit, we will be using the terms *perfective*, *imperfective*, and *future*. The reason for this is that Tlingit is an event-driven language, which means that when the verb occured is less important that whether or not it has happened. Because of this, we have verbs in Tlingit that do not change when talking about present tense or past tense, but that is certainly not the case every time.

In our previous lessons we have mostly focused on repetition of phrases and substitution drills. This means we learn a pattern and then fill in the blanks with a noun to use the sentence to express ourselves. In this lesson, we will do some of that, but we will be learning a series of verbs that allow us to describe the weather in most possible conditions. From there, we will look at how we can talk about the way the weather was yesterday (*perfective*), the way it is now (*imperfective*), and the way it might be (*future*). In addition, one other verb mode will be introduced, and that is *progressive imperfective*, which means the verb is in the process of happening. The more we work with Tlingit the more these terms will make sense. For now, focus on the patterns and look for similarities as each phrase shifts between verb modes.

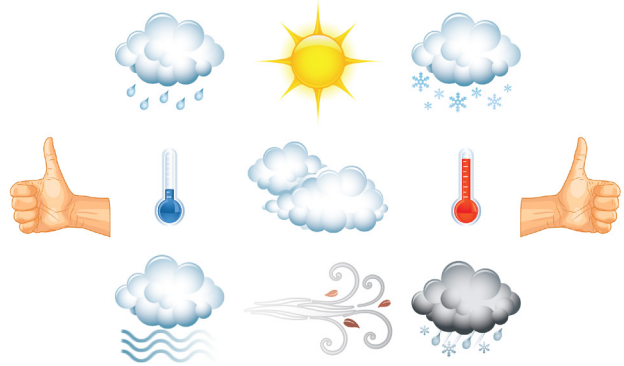
imperfective



wáa sá k̲uwatee? /
wáa sá k̲uyatee?

wáa sá k̲u-ÿa-√tee
how say [areal].cl.√be
how say weather-be?

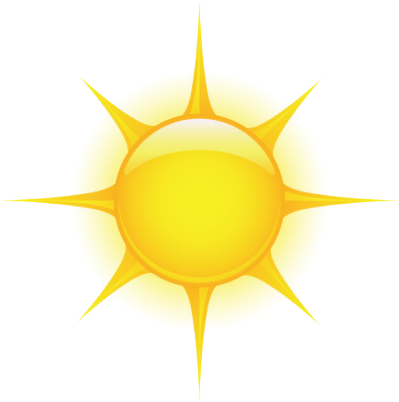
imperfective



k̲uwak'éi /
k̲uyak'éi

k̲u-ÿa-√k'éi
[areal].cl.√fine/good
weather-fine

perfective



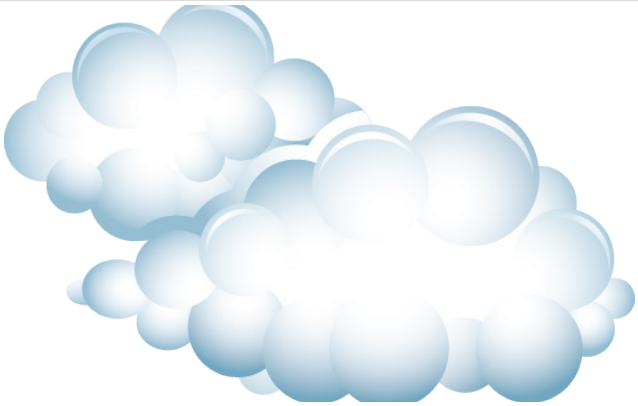
awdigaan

a-ÿu-di-√gaan

(a-theme).pfv.cl.√burn/light

it is/was sunny

imperfective



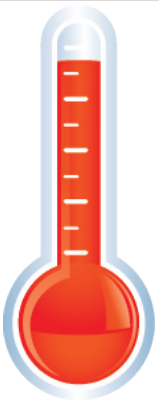
ḳuligóos'

ḳu-li-√góos'

[areal].cl.√cloudy

the weather is cloudy

imperfective



ḳuwat'áa / ḳuyat'áa

ḳu-ÿa-√t'áa

[areal].cl.√warm/hot

The weather is hot

imperfective

ḳusi.áat'

ḳu-si-√.áat'

[areal].cl.√cold

The weather is cold

___ ágé?	Is it ___? ___ á-gé ___ focus.yes/no? *use one of the weather verbs*
aaa/tléik'. ___.	yes/no. It's ___. regardless or yes or no, answer with the weather verb
k̲únáx̲	really k̲u-náx̲ areal.through/along this is an adverb, and appears before the verb it modifies
k̲údáx̲ ~ k̲útx̲	too much k̲u-dáx̲ areal.from this is an adverb, and appears before the verb it modifies

perfective

dleit daak wusitán

dleit daak ÿu-si-√tán

snow.fall(down).pfv.cl.√precipitate

it is/was snowing

perfective

séew daak wusitán

séew daak ÿu-si-√tán

rain.fall(down).pfv.cl.√precipitate

it is/was raining

perfective

kadás' daak wusitán

kadás' daak ÿu-si-√tán

sleet.fall(down).pfv.cl.√precipitate

perfective

kaklahéen daak wusitán

kaklahéen daak ÿu-si-√tán

slush.fall(down).pfv.cl.√precipitate

perfective

kaséix̲jaa daak wusitán

kaséix̲jaa daak ÿu-si-√tán

fine-rain.fall(down).pfv.cl.√precipitate

imperfective

k̲udigwás'

k̲u-di-√gwás'

[areal].cl.√foggy

The weather is foggy

perfective

ayawditee

a-ya-ÿu-di-√tee

it-(3.O).v-sf.pfv.cl.√stormy/windy

it face is/was stormy/windy

perfective

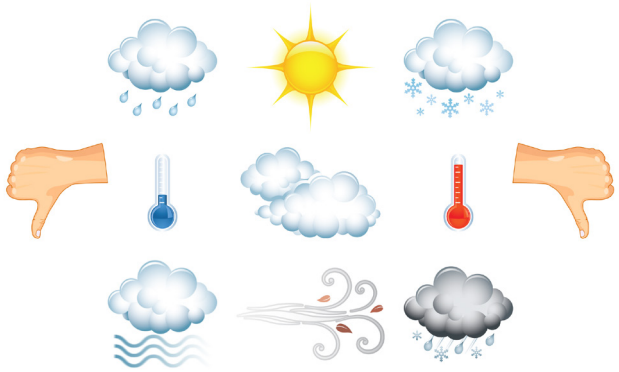
ayakaawadán

a-ya-ka-ÿu-ÿa-√dán

a-theme.v-sf.hz-sf. pfv.cl.√snow-heavily

it face is/was snowing heavily

imperfective (-)



tlél ḵooshk’é

tlél ḵu-u-sh-√k’é

not [areal].irr.cl.√fine/good

perfective

xa̲t yaawasík

I’m delayed (by weather)

xa̲t ya-ÿu-ÿa-√sík

me-(1.O) v-sf.pfv.cl.√delayed-(by weather)

me delayed

perfective

xa̲t wuditl’ák’

xa̲t ÿu-di-√tl’ák’

me-(1.O) pfv.cl.√be-wet

me wet

eesháan!

poor thing!

this word is a tlingit interjection, so its meaning can change depending on context. it is used to describe something poor, someone suffering, or to tease.

yeedát	now
yáa yakyee	today
	yáa yakyee this day
tatgé	yesterday
ḵa	and
tsú	also

___ yáa yakyee.	(the weather is) ___ today.
___ tatgé.	(the weather was) ___ yesterday.
___ tatgé, k̲a yáa yakyee tsú ___.	It was ___ yesterday, and ___ today too.
	(perfective) tatgé, k̲a yáa yakyee tsú (imperfective) __ yesterday and this day also ___
	perfective
wáa sá k̲oowatee?	How was the weather?
	wáa sá k̲u-ÿu-ÿa-√tee how say [areal].pfv.cl.√be the perfective can appear as «wu-», «w-», or «-y-». when expanding the grammar (segmenting), write this as «ÿu». the «ÿ» means that the letter will be a «y» unless preceded by a rounded vowel («u» or «oo»), in which case it will be «w».
	perfective
k̲oowak'éi	the weather was good
	k̲u-ÿu-ÿa-√k'éi [areal].pfv.cl.√fine

	perfective
ḵuwligóos’	the weather was cloudy
	ḵu-ÿu-li-√góos’ [areal].pfv.cl.√cloudy
	perfective
ḵoowat’áa	the weather was warm/hot
	ḵu-ÿu-ÿa-√t’áa [areal].pfv.cl.√warm/hot
	perfective
ḵoowsi.áat’	the weather was cold
	ḵu-ÿu-si-√.áat’ [areal].pfv.cl.√cold
	perfective
ḵuwdigwás’	the weather was foggy
	ḵu-ÿu-di-√gwás’ [areal].pfv.cl.√foggy

perfective (-)

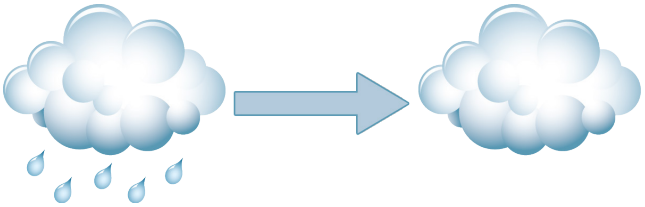
tlél ḵooshk’é

the weather was not good

tlél ḵu-u-ÿu-sh-√k’é

not.[areal].irr.pfv.cl.√good/fine

perfective



aawadaaḵ

a-ÿu-ÿa-√daaḵ

a-theme.pfv.cl.√stop-(precipitation)

it stopped precipitating

imperfective

wáa sá yatee gáan?

How is it outside?

wáa sá ÿa-√tee gáan

how say cl.√be outisde

how say be outside

future

aadéi akḵwalg̱éin

I will take a look

aa-déi a-ga-u-g̱a-x̱a-l-√g̱éin

it-towards a-theme.ga-conj.irr.g̱a-mode.i-(1.S).cl.√look-at

it-towards I will look at

ch’u tatgéidáx̲ áyá.	It has been since yesterday. ch’u tatgé-dáx̲ á-yá just yesterday.from (focus).right-here just yesterday from it is
seig̲ánin / seig̲án	tomorrow
g̲u.aa ~ g̲wa	however this word does not start a sentece. if it appears at the beginning of a sentence, it is preceded by the word «a» (it). it creates a slight turn in logic, and sometimes will appear as «g̲wa».
shákdé	perhaps, probably indicates possibility; placed after the verb

future

kei ḵukg̲wak’éi	the weather will be fine
	kei ḵu-ga-u-g̲a-∅-√k’éi up [areal].ga-conj.irr.g̲a-mode.cl.√good/fine

future

yei aguẋdagáan	it will be sunny
	yei a-ga-u-g̲a-da-gáan down a-mode.ga-conj.irr.g̲a-mode.cl.√burn/light

future

kei ḵuguẋlagóos’	it will be cloudy
	kei ḵu-ga-u-g̲a-la-√góos’ up [areal].ga-conj.irr.g̲a-mode.cl.√cloudy

future

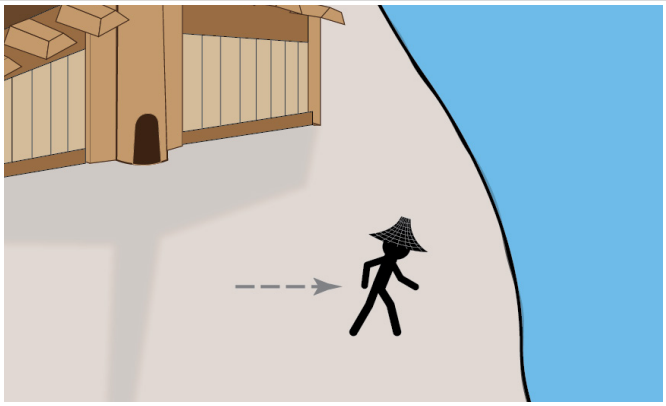
kei ḵukg̲wat’áa	the weather will be hot
	kei ḵu-ga-u-g̲a-∅-t’áa up [areal].ga-conj.irr.g̲a-mode.cl.√hot

future	
kei ḵuguẋsa.áat’	the weather will be cold
	kei ḵu-ga-u-g̲a-sa-√.áat’ up [areal].ga-conj.irr.g̲a-mode.cl.√cold
future	
___ daak guẋsatáan	it will (precipitate) .
	___ daak ga-u-g̲a-sa-táan (precip) fall-(down) ga-conj.irr.g̲a-mode.cl.√precipitate
future	
ḵuguẋdagwáas’	the weather will be foggy
	ḵu-ga-u-g̲a-da-√gwáas’ [areal].ga-conj.irr.g̲a-mode.cl.√foggy
future	
yei ayaguẋdatée	it will be stormy/windy
	yei a-ya-ga-u-g̲a-da-√tée down a-theme.v-sf.ga-conj.irr.g̲a-mode.cl.√windy/stormy

future	
akg̲wadáak̲	it will stop (precipitating)
	a-ga-u-g̲a-∅-√dáak̲ a-theme.g̲a-conj.irr.g̲a-mode.cl.√stop-(precipitating)
gwál	perhaps
	indicates doubt; placed before the verb
seig̲ánin ___ shákdé.	tomorrow ___ perhaps.
seig̲ánin gwál ___.	tomorrow maybe ___.

	progressive imperfective
kei ḵunak’éin / yei ḵunak’éin	the weather it is getting better
	kei ḵu-na-∅-√k’éi-n up [areal].na-conj.cl.√fine.(progressive) yei ḵu-na-∅-√k’éi-n down [areal].na-conj.cl.√fine.(progressive)
	progressive imperfective
yaa andagán	it is getting sunny
	yaa a-na-da-√gán along a-theme.na-conj.cl.√burn/light
	progressive imperfective
kei ḵunalgóos’	the weather is getting cloudy
	kei ḵu-na-l-√góos’ up [areal].na-conj.cl.√cloudy
	progressive imperfective
yaa ḵunat’éin	the weather it is getting hot
	yaa ḵu-na-∅-√t’áa-n ~ t’éin along [areal].na-conj.cl.√hot.(progressive)

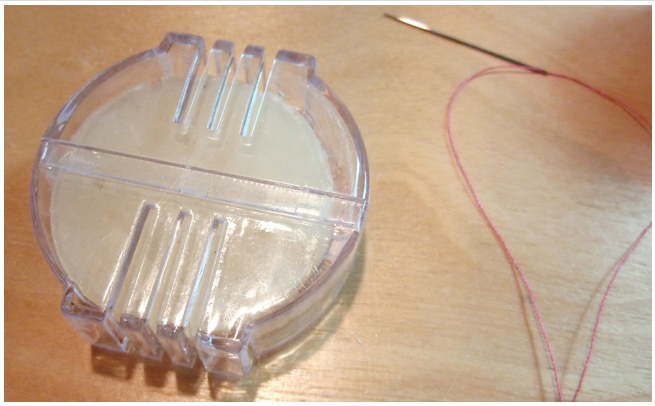
	progressive imperfective
kei ḵunas.áaťʼ	the weather it is getting cold
	kei ḵu-na-s-√.áaťʼ up [areal].na-conj.cl.cold
	progressive imperfective
___ daak nastán	it is beginning to (precipitate)
	___ daak na-s-√tán (precipitation) fall-(down) na-conj.cl.√precipitate
	progressive imperfective
yaa ḵundagwásʼ	the weather is getting foggy
	kei ḵu-na-da-√gwásʼ up [areal].na-conj.cl.√foggy
	progressive imperfective
yei ayandateen	the weather it is getting windy
	yaa a-ya-na-da-√tee-n along [areal].na-conj.cl.√windy/stormy.(progressive)

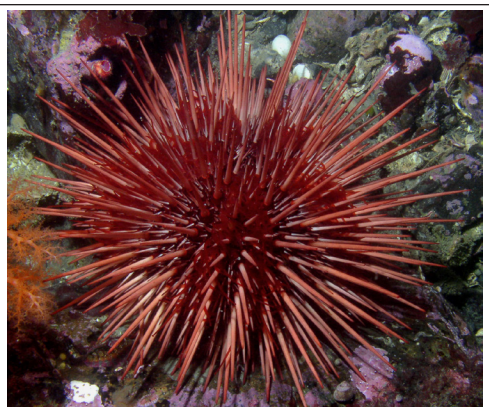
	ḵáa	man; person
	ḵóok	box
	kóoḵ	cellar; pit
	éeḵ	beach

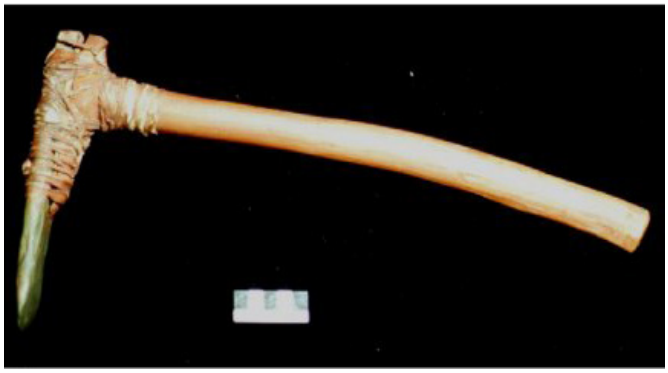
	shaaḵ	driftwood
	tákḵl	hammer
	láḵt	bentwood box
yak’éi	good, fine ÿa-√k’éi cl.√fine	

	g̲áach	rug
	g̲uwakaan	deer; peacemaker
	g̲áx̲	rabbit
	lug̲wéinaa	hankerchief

	s’áaw	dungeness crab
	s’éex’át	shrimp
	s’íx’	dish
	ús’aa	soap

	óos'i	laundry
	tás daaneis'í	wax for sewing
	cháas'	humpy, pink salmon
	tóos'	shark

	nées’	sea urchin
	s’ísaa	cloth
	t’áa ká	floor
	kanat’á	blueberry

	xíťaa	broom
	x̲úťaa	adze
	síť	glacier
	dleey	meat

	dleit g̲éedi	snowstorm
	yíkdlaa	spark from a fire
	aas daag̲aadli	tree fungus
	aas dlágwaa	peavey (logging tool)