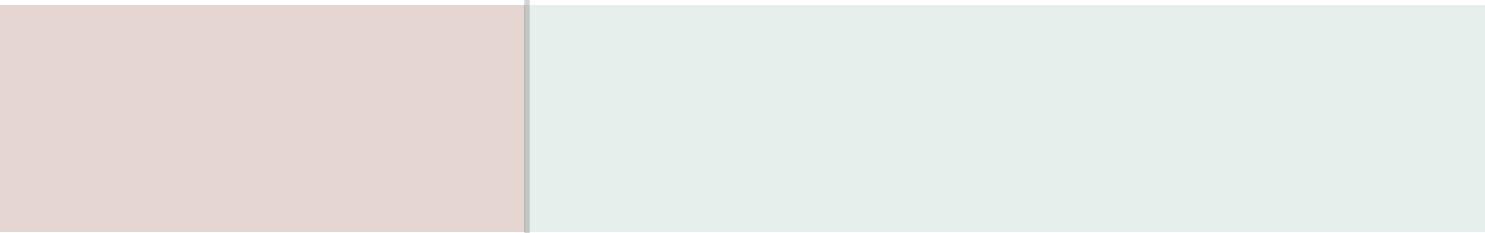


Wáa sá kuwanook?

What is s/he doing?

Ax toowú yak'éi
yeewháan a daa yández gaxyináagi.
Haa jinák daak kanals'ís a yáx áwé yatee,
áwé yá Lingít yoo x'atángi.
— Keixwnéi



I feel good
that you all, you are all going to stand up for it.
It is like it is blowing out of our hands,
the Tlingit language.
— Nora Dauenhauer

Wáa sá kuwanook?

It is now time to begin looking more closely at how verbs function in Tlingit. Here are the three ways we need to learn to conjugate verbs in order to use them effectively:

1. PERSON

This is who is doing the verb (subject) and who is affected by the verb (object). As in most things with Tlingit, we will learn some basic rules and then see exceptions to those rules, such as using object pronouns for what is actually the subject of the verb and using noun phrases for subjects or objects outside of the verb itself.

2. MODE

In Tlingit, verb mode is linked to concepts like whether the verb is completed or not, and if it happening now or in the future. We will see the complexity of Tlingit verb modes over time, but for now you can compare it to past, present, and future in English.

3. DEPENDENT OR LINKED CLAUSES

Linking verbs together for cause and effect (it's X because of Y) or other ways changes the way the verbs are put together. It is important to learn this so you can begin stringing thoughts together in Tlingit. You have already learned phrases that do this, like « yak'éi ixwsateení ».

Begin by looking at a question we can ask, and then some common verbs. The subject in the verb will change between first person singular (1s), second person singular (2s), and third person (3). Pay close attention to which components are changing, and how that affects contraction in the verb prefix.

wáa sá <u>kuwanook</u>	what is s/he doing? wáa + sá + <u>ku</u> -Ø-ŷa-√nóok ⁴ how + voice + areal.s/he-(3.S).cl(-d,Ø,-i).√sit/be-situated
wáa sá <u>keeyanook</u> ?	what are you doing? wáa + sá + <u>ku</u> -i-ŷa-√nóok ⁴ how + voice + areal.you-(2s.S).cl(-d,Ø,-i).√sit/be-situated
wáa sá <u>kuxaanook</u> ?	what am i doing? wáa + sá + <u>ku</u> -xa-ŷa-√nóok ⁴ how + voice + areal.i-(1s.S).cl(-d,Ø,-i).√sit/be-situated
(yéi) + <u>ku</u> -S-Ø-√nook ⁴ (<i>na act verb – subject intransitive</i>) for S to behave, do, act (in a certain way)	

S-Ø-√.áa¹ (*positional verb – subject intransitive*)

for (singular) S to be seated

áa	s/he is sitting
	Ø-Ø-√.áa ¹ s/he-(3.S)+cl-(d,Ø,-i).√sit/be-situated
ee.áa	you are sitting
	i-Ø-√.áa ¹ you-(2s.S)+cl-(d,Ø,-i).√sit/be-situated
<u>xa.áa</u>	i am sitting
	<u>xa</u> -Ø-√.áa ¹ i-(1s.S)+cl-(d,Ø,-i).√sit/be-situated

S-Ø-√hán^x (*positional verb – subject intransitive*)

for (singular) S to be standing

hán	s/he is standing
	Ø-Ø-√hán s/he-(3.S)+cl-(d,Ø,-i).√stand/rise
eehán	you are standing
	i-Ø-√hán you-(2s.S)+cl-(d,Ø,-i).√stand/rise
<u>xahán</u>	i am standing
	<u>xa</u> -Ø-√hán i-(1s.S)+cl-(d,Ø,-i).√stand/rise

at + S-Ø-√xaa ¹ (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to eat

at <u>xá</u>	s/he is eating
	at + Ø-Ø-√ <u>xá</u> ¹ something-(4n.O) + s/he-(3.S)+cl-(-d,Ø,-i).√eat
at eexá	you are eating
	at + i-Ø-√ <u>xá</u> ¹ something-(4n.O) + you-(2s.S)+cl-(-d,Ø,-i).√eat
at <u>xaxá</u>	i am eating
	at + <u>xa</u> -Ø-√ <u>xá</u> ¹ something-(4n.O) + i-(1s.S)+cl-(-d,Ø,-i).√eat

at + S-d+Ø-√naa ¹ (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to drink

at <u>daná</u>	s/he is drinking
	at + Ø-da-√ <u>ná</u> ¹ something-(4n.O) + s/he-(3.S)+cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√drink/dampen/oil
at <u>idaná</u>	you are drinking
	at + i-da-√ <u>ná</u> ¹ something-(4n.O) + you-(2s.S)+cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√drink/dampen/oil
at <u>xadaná</u>	i am drinking
	at + <u>xa</u> -da-√ <u>ná</u> ¹ i-(1s.S)+cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√drink/dampen/oil

at + S-∅-look (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to drink O in sips, sip O (esp. hot liquids)

at lóok	s/he is sipping
	at + ∅-∅-√lóok something-(4n.O) + s/he-(3.S)+cl(-d,∅,-i).√sip
at eelóok	you are sipping
	at + i-∅-√lóok something-(4n.O) + you-(2s.S)+cl(-d,∅,-i).√sip
at <u>x</u> alóok	i am sipping
	at + <u>x</u> a-∅-√lóok something-(4n.O) + i-(1s.S)+cl(-d,∅,-i).√sip

O-S-∅-√.een¹ (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to pick O (esp. berries) into a container

at een	s/he is picking (berries)
	at + ∅-∅-√.een ¹ something-(4n.O) + s/he-(3.S)+cl(-d,∅,-i).√handle-(container with objects)
at ee.een	you are picking (berries)
	at + i-∅-√.een ¹ something-(4n.O) + you-(2s.S)+cl(-d,∅,-i).√handle-(container with objects)
at <u>x</u> a.een	i am picking (berries)
	at + <u>x</u> a-∅-√.een ¹ something-(4n.O) + i-(1s.S)+cl(-d,∅,-i).√handle-(container with objects)

at + S-s-√.ee (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to cook

at gas.ée	s/he is cooking (for immediate consumption / for self)
	at + ga-∅-s-√.ée something-(4n.O) + self-benefactive-s/he-(3.S)+cl-(+d,s,-i).√cook
at gees.ée	you are cooking (for immediate consumption / for self)
	at + ga-i-s-√.ée something-(4n.O) + self-benefactive-you-(2s.S)+cl-(+d,s,-i).√cook
at gaxas.ée	i am cooking (for immediate consumption / for self)
	at + ga-xa-s-√.ée something-(4n.O) + self-benefactive-i-(1s.S)+cl-(+d,s,-i).√cook

at + S-s-√.ee (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to cook

at sa.ée	s/he is cooking
	at + ∅-s-√.ée something-(4n.O) + s/he-(3.S).cl-(-d,s,-i).√cook
at isa.ée	you are cooking
	at + ga-i-s-√.ée something-(4n.O) + you-(2s.S).cl-(-d,s,-i).√cook
at xasa.ée	i am cooking
	at + ga-xa-s-√.ée something-(4n.O) + i-(1s.S).cl-(-d,s,-i).√cook

S-d+Ø-√xaash (*na act verb – subject intransitive*)

for S to cut

	s/he is cutting
daxáash	Ø-da-√xáash s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√cut/saw
	you are cutting
idaxáash	i-da-√xáash you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√cut/saw
	i am cutting
xadaxáash	xa-da-√xáash i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√cut/saw

S-d+Ø-√xéet' (act) (*ga act verb – subject intransitive*)

for S to sweep

	s/he is sweeping
daxít'kw	Ø-da-√xít'-kw s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√sweep/scrape/brush.[repeatedly]
	you are sweeping
idaxít'kw	i-da-√xít'-kw you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√sweep/scrape/brush.[repeatedly]
	i am sweeping
xadaxít'kw	xa-da-√xít'-kw i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√sweep/scrape/brush.[repeatedly]

S-d+Ø-√.óos' (act) (na act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to wash

da.ús'kw	s/he is washing
	Ø-da-√.ús'-kw s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√wash.[repeatedly]
ida.ús'kw	you are washing
	i-da-√.ús'-kw you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√wash.[repeatedly]
xada.ús'kw	i am washing
	xa-da-√.ús'-kw i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√wash.[repeatedly]

S-d+Ø-√kaa ² (Ø act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to sew

dakéis'	s/he is sewing
	Ø-da-√ <u>k</u> aa ²-s' s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√sew/embroider/bead/tattoo.[in-series]
idakéis'	you are sewing
	i-da-√ <u>k</u> aa ²-s' you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√sew/embroider/bead/tattoo.[in-series]
xadakéis'	i am sewing
	xa-da-√ <u>k</u> aa ²-s' i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√sew/embroider/bead/tattoo.[in-series]

ka-S-d+Ø-√ch'áak'w (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to carve (usually smaller, detailed work) using a knife

kadach'áak'w	s/he is carving (smaller, more detailed work)
	ka-Ø-da-√ch'áak'w hsf.s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√carve/nick
keedach'áak'w	you are carving (smaller, more detailed work)
	ka-i-da-√ch'áak'w hsf.you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√carve/nick
kaxdach'áak'w	i am carving (smaller, more detailed work)
	ka-xa-da-√ch'áak'w hsf.i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√carve/nick

ka-S-s+d-√nei ³ (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to knit, weave, or crochet

kasné	he/she is knitting, weaving, or crocheting
	ka-Ø-s-√né ³ hsf.s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,s,-i).√weave-yarns/knit/crochet/make-cloth
keesné	you are knitting, weaving, or crocheting
	ka-i-s-√né ³ hsf.you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,s,-i).√weave-yarns/knit/crochet/make-cloth
kaxasné	i am knitting, weaving, or crocheting
	ka-xa-s-√né ³ hsf.i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,s,-i).√weave-yarns/knit/crochet/make-cloth

a-S-Ø-√l'óon ^x (na act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to hunt

al'ón	s/he is hunting
	a-Ø-Ø-√l'oon a-theme.s/he-(3.S).cl-(d,Ø,-i).√hunt
eel'ón	you are hunting
	a-i-Ø-√l'oon a-theme.you-(2s.S).cl-(d,Ø,-i).√hunt
axal'ón	i am hunting
	a-xa-Ø-√l'oon a-theme.i-(1s.S).cl-(d,Ø,-i).√hunt

a-S-s+d-√geiwú ^x (na act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to fish with net, seine

asgeiwú	he/she is seining
	a-Ø-s-√geiwú a-theme.hsf.s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,s,-i).√fish-(with net)
eesgeiwú	you are seining
	a-i-s-√geiwú a-theme.hsf.you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,s,-i).√fish-(with net)
axasgeiwú	i am seining
	a-xa-s-√geiwú a-theme.hsf.i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,s,-i).√fish-(with net)

a-S-s+d- $\sqrt{t'eix}$ ^x (na act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to fish with hooks, catch on a hook, troll

ast'eix	s/he is fishing (with hooks)
	a-Ø-s- $\sqrt{t'eix}$ a-theme.s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,s,-i).√fish-(with hook)
eest'eix	you are fishing (with hooks)
	a-i-s- $\sqrt{t'eix}$ a-theme.you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,s,-i).√fish-(with hook)
axast'eix	i am fishing (with hooks)
	a-xa-s- $\sqrt{t'eix}$ a-theme.i-(is.S).cl-(+d,s,-i).√fish-(with hook)

at + S-Ø- $\sqrt{.únt}$ ^x (na act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to shoot (with firearms)

at únt	he/she is shooting
	at + Ø-Ø- $\sqrt{.ún-t}$ something-(4n.O) + s/he-(3.S).cl-(d,Ø,-i).√shoot-(firearm)
at ee.únt	you are shooting
	at + i-Ø- $\sqrt{.ún-t}$ something-(4n.O) + you-(2s.S).cl-(d,Ø,-i).√shoot-(firearm)
at xa.únt	i am shooting
	at + xa-Ø- $\sqrt{.ún-t}$ something-(4n.O) + i-(is.S).cl-(d,Ø,-i).√shoot-(firearm)

S-d+Ø-√tóow^x (*na act verb – subject intransitive*)

for S to read, count

datóow	s/he is reading
	Ø-da-√tóow s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√read/count/study/teach
idatóow	you are reading
	i-da-√tóow you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√read/count/study/teach
xadatóow	i am reading
	xa-da-√tóow i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√read/count/study/teach

sh + tóo + at + S-l+d-√tóow^x (*Ø act verb – subject intransitive*)

for S to study, teach oneself

sh tóo at iltóow	he/she is studying
	sh + tóo + at + i-Ø-l-√tóow rflx + inside + something-(4n.O) + [peg-vowel].s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,l,-i).√study
sh tóo at eeltóow	you are studying
	sh + tóo + at + i-l-√tóow rflx + inside + something-(4n.O) + you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,l,-i).√study
sh tóo at xaltóow	i am studying
	sh + tóo + at + xa-l-√tóow rflx + inside + something-(4n.O) + i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,l,-i).√study

ka-S-sh+d-√xeet (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to write, draw, or paint; for S to take a photograph

kashxeet	s/he is writing
	ka-∅-sh-√xeet hsf.s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,sh,-i).√poke-(with stick)/write
keeshxeet	you are writing
	ka-i-sh-√xeet hsf.you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,sh,-i).√poke-(with stick)/write
kaxashxeet	i am writing
	ka-xa-sh-√xeet hsf.i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,sh,-i).√poke-(with stick)/write

at + S-∅-√shee h 4 (*ga* act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to sing

at shí	he/she is singing
	at + ∅-∅-√shí ⁴ something-(4n.O) + s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,∅,-i).√sing
at eeshí	you are singing
	at + i-∅-√shí ⁴ something-(4n.O) + you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,∅,-i).√sing
at xashi	i am singing
	at + xa-∅-√shí ⁴ something-(4n.O) + i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,∅,-i).√sing

a-S-Ø-√l'eix^x (*na act verb – subject intransitive*)

for S to dance

al'eix	s/he is dancing
	a-Ø-Ø-√l'eix a-theme.s/he-(3.S).cl-(d,Ø,-i).√dance
eel'eix	you are dancing
	a-i-Ø-√l'eix a-theme.you-(2s.S).cl-(d,Ø,-i).√dance
axal'eix	i am dancing
	a-xa-Ø-√l'eix a-theme.i-(1s.S).cl-(d,Ø,-i).√dance

sh + tóo + at + S-l+d-√tóow^x (*Ø act verb – subject intransitive*)

for S to study, teach oneself

sh tóo at iltóow	he/she is studying
	sh + tóo + at + i-Ø-l-√tóow rflx + inside + something-(4n.O) + [peg-vowel].s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,l,-i).√study
sh tóo at eeltóow	you are studying
	sh + tóo + at + i-l-√tóow rflx + inside + something-(4n.O) + you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,l,-i).√study
sh tóo at xaltóow	i am studying
	sh + tóo + at + xa-l-√tóow rflx + inside + something-(4n.O) + i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,l,-i).√study

S-d+Ø-√gwaal (*ga act verb – subject intransitive*)

for S to beat (esp. drum), ring (bell); for S to stab

	s/he is beating (the drum)
dagwáal	Ø-da-√gwáal s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√beat/knock/ring/hit/stab
	you are beating (the drum)
idagwáal	i-da-√gwáal you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√beat/knock/ring/hit/stab
	i am beating (the drum)
xadagwáal	xa-da-√gwáal i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√beat/knock/ring/hit/stab

S-Ø-√gaax (*ga act verb – subject intransitive*)

for (singular) S to cry, weep; for (singular) S to mourn, lament

	he/she is crying
gáax	Ø-Ø-√gáax s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√cry
	you are crying
eegáax	i-Ø-√gáax you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√cry
	i am crying
xagáax	xa-Ø-√gáax i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,Ø,-i).√cry

at + S-Ø-√shook (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for S to laugh

at shook	s/he is laughing
	at+ Ø-Ø-√shook something-(4n.O) + s/he-(3.S).cl-(–d,Ø,–i).√/laugh/smile
at eeshook	you are laughing
	a-i-Ø-√shook something-(4n.O) + you-(2s.S).cl-(–d,Ø,–i).√/laugh/smile
at xashook	i am laughing
	a-xa-Ø-√shook something-(4n.O) + i-(is.S).cl-(–d,Ø,–i).√/laugh/smile

yoo + tu-S-Ø-√taan 5 (\emptyset act verb – subject intransitive)

for (singular) S to think over, consider, make up one's mind

yoo tuwatánk	he/she is thinking
	yoo + tu-Ø-ÿá-√tán 5-k to/fro + inside.s/he-(3.S).cl-(–d,Ø,+i).√/communicate.[repetitive]
yoo teeyatánk	you are thinking
	yoo + tu-i-ÿá-√tán 5-k to/fro + inside.you-(2s.S).cl-(–d,Ø,+i).√/communicate.[repetitive]
yoo tuxaatánk	i am thinking
	yoo + tu-xa-ÿá-√tán 5-k to/fro + inside.i-(is.S).cl-(–d,Ø,–i).√/communicate.[repetitive]

yoo + tu-S-Ø-√taan⁵ (*Ø act verb – subject intransitive*)

for (singular) S to think over, consider, make up one's mind

yoo x'ayatánk	he/she is talking
	yoo + x'a-Ø-ÿá-√tán ^{5-k} to/fro + mouth.s/he-(3.S).cl-(~d,Ø,+i).√communicate.[repetitive]
yoo x'eeyatánk	you are talking
	yoo + x'a-i-ÿá-√tán ^{5-k} to/fro + mouth.you-(2s.S).cl-(~d,Ø,+i).√communicate.[repetitive]
yoo x'axaatánk	i am talking
	yoo + x'a-xa-ÿá-√tán ^{5-k} to/fro + mouth.i-(is.S).cl-(~d,Ø,-i).√communicate.[repetitive]

sh + ka-S-l+d-√neek^x (*na act verb – subject intransitive*)

for S to tell a story

sh kalneek	he/she is telling a story
	sh + ka-Ø-l-√neek rflx + hsf.s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,l,-i).√tell/report/interpret
sh keelneek	you are telling a story
	sh + ka-i-l-√neek rflx + hsf.you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,l,-i).√tell/report/interpret
sh kaxalneek	i am telling a story
	sh + ka-xa-l-√neek rflx + hsf.i-(is.S).cl-(+d,l,-i).√tell/report/interpret

yéi + ji-(na)-S-∅-√nei ^h 2 (*na act verb – subject intransitive*)

for S to work; for S to do

yéi jiné	s/he is working
	yéi + ji-∅-∅-√né ^h 2 thus + hand.s/he-(3.S).cl-(–d,∅,–i).√do/work-on
yéi jeené	you are working
	yéi + ji-i-∅-√né ^h 2 thus + hand.you-(2s.S).cl-(–d,∅,–i).√do/work-on
yéi jixané	i am working
	yéi + ji-xa-∅-√né ^h 2 thus + hand.i-(1s.S).cl-(–d,∅,–i).√do/work-on

ash + ka-u-S-l+d-√yát ^x (*na act verb – subject intransitive*)

for S to play (esp. active games)

ash koolyát	he/she is playing
	ash + ka-u-∅-l-√yát itself + hsf.irr.s/he-(3.S).cl-(+d,l,+i).√child
ash keelyát	you are playing
	ash + ka-u-i-l-√yát itself + hsf.irr.you-(2s.S).cl-(+d,l,+i).√child
ash kuxalyát	i am playing
	ash + ka-u-xa-l-√yát itself + hsf.irr.i-(1s.S).cl-(+d,l,–i).√child

ch'u

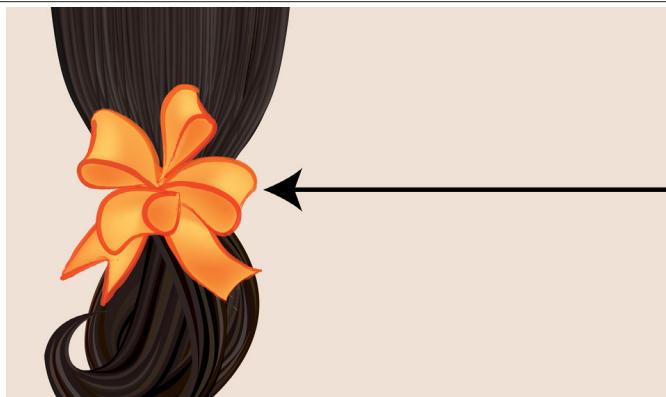
this particle appears with other words, as in the following examples:

ch'u déix	both	
ch'u shóogu	the same	same; even; still
ch'u tle ~ ch'u tlei	just when; just while	
ch'u tleix	forever	



ch'eix'

thimbleberries



ch'éen

hair ribbon



kach'ák'waa

rounded chisel



éil'

salt; ocean;
salt water



gáal'

clams



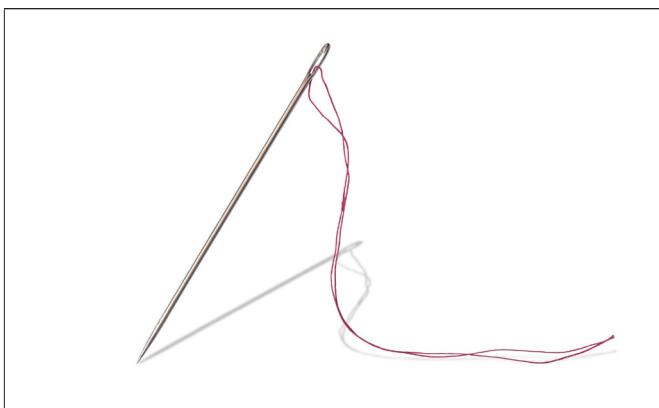
yéil'

elderberries



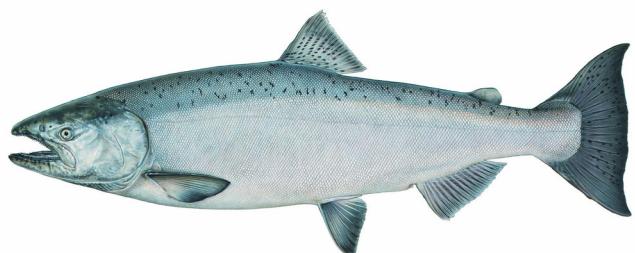
téel'

chum;
dog salmon



táax'ál'

needle



l'ook

coho;
silver salmon



l'aak

dress



l'axkeit

mask



xákwl'i

soapberries



kax'íl'aa

iron

