

## Phrases

Xaghints'eyh.	It's stormy.
Xaghints'eyh maay	Whirlwind
Nadhissuu.	I'm well again. (I recovered.)
Sts'eníin' shcar jah nishinihtee	My child brought me here in my car.
Fairbanks ishndaay gha dhihdah.	I live in Fairbanks in order to work.
Xatáatah.	Occasionally.
Xatáatah.	Occasionally.
Díi gha itndah?	What are you? (What do you do for work?)
Dendeey iin aandĕg' gha edach'axdekdíix.	I teach about Native languages.
Dendeey iin nah'óg nts'é xtaatéel de'ukah edihdíix.	I tell people how the weather is going to be.
Njëyy' xúnĕee?	Do you have any mittens.
Shjëyy' kól.	I don't have any mittens.
Teejuh. Natindlih.	Poor thing. You'll be cold.

## Using *éł* to join phrases

The word *éł* usually means 'with' and follows a noun. But it can also be used to join two phrases together in a temporal or causal relationship. In this case it has the meaning 'while' or 'because of'. The phrase preceding *éł* must be nominalized, that is, the final consonant must be voiced.

Ghihshaaddh <i>éł</i> xultlet.	It's slippery because it snowed.
Xaghints'ey <i>éł</i> naxtnatk'ethh.	It's going to get cold from that stormy weather.

## Inceptive, imperfective, perfective, customary

We have already seen that many words have different forms depending on whether they refer to the past or the present, that is, an activity which is completed or still in process. Here we distinguish four forms, each of which we can refer to with a special technical label. You might want to be familiar with these terms as there fairly standard within Athabascan grammar.

Inceptive	'about to', 'starting to'
Imperfective	not yet completed
Perfective	completed
Customary	'usually'

Jeyh <u>shíi</u> tdédhegdíix.	I'm about to put on mittens.
Jeyh <u>shíi</u> dégdíih.	I'm putting on my mittens.
Jeyh <u>shíi</u> degdíik.	I put on my mittens (already).
Jeyh <u>shíi</u> degdíix.	I usually put on mittens.
Kentsiith <u>shíi</u> tdédheg'éetth.	I'm about to put on mocassins.
Kentsiith <u>shíi</u> dég'éetth.	I'm putting on my mocassins.
Kentsiith <u>shíi</u> deg'éetth.	I put on my mocassins (already).
Kentsiith <u>shíi</u> deg'iitth.	I usually put on mocassins.

## Active and stative verbs

One further complication the distinction between *active* and *stative* verbs. Active verbs describe an activity or event. Stative verbs describe a unchanging state. We have seen many examples of each of these types of verbs. For example, active verbs such as *gibhaat* 'I'm walking' and stative verbs such as *didbibdab* 'I'm sitting down'. Sometimes a particular verb stem can have *both* active and stative forms. This is the case with the verb referring to 'putting on' and 'be wearing'. Putting something on is clearly an activity, whereas, wearing something is a state. When we first learned about these forms, we learned the stative forms. These contain a *db-* prefix (though this prefix deletes in the third-person forms).

Jeyh <u>shíi</u> dédhegdíik.	I'm wearing mittens.
Kentsiith <u>shíi</u> dédheg'éetth.	I'm wearing mocassins.

Notice that the stative forms are very similar to the inceptive ('about to') forms discussed above. Both contain the *db-* prefix, but the inceptive also contains a *t-* prefix. The problem is that it is rather difficult to hear that *t-* prefix when it occurs right at the beginning of the word and preceding a *d-*. Compare the following:

INCEPTIVE ACTIVE	Jeyh <u>sh</u> íi tdédhegdíix.	I'm about to put on mittens.
STATIVE	Jeyh <u>sh</u> íi dédhegdíik.	I'm wearing mittens.

It may be much easier to hear that *t-* prefix when it is preceded by another prefix, such as the iterative prefix *na-*, meaning 'again'. (Recall notes from Dec 4.)

INCEPTIVE ACTIVE	Jeyh <u>sh</u> íi natdédhegdíix.	I'm about to put mittens back on.
STATIVE	Jeyh <u>sh</u> íi nadédhegdíik.	I'm wearing mittens again.