

Nido de Lenguas: Clases

Class 4 – January 7, 2021

GOALS

- To review how to pronounce ‘
- To learn some adjectives for describing people
- To learn how to combine adjectives with nouns
- To explore the uses and significance of the ya ‘temazcal’



A ya ‘temazcal’

Workshop on the Languages of Meso-America
University of California, Santa Cruz
wlma.ucsc.edu/nidodelenguas/

1. Dialogue from last class

Did you memorize the final dialogue from our last class? Get ready to perform it with one of your classmates!

Raquel: **Ba bllinh oxh chejdzu lni'nh!**
'It's time to go to the fiesta!'

Beto: **Ba nhuxa'a lhape' gasj tsia'nh.**
'I have my black hat.'

Bi xha'nh guxa' yitu?
'What other clothing should I bring?'

Raquel: **Xho' wiya'anh.**
'Your dancing outfit.'

Beto: **Gunhlahlla'nh, duxklhenhu'.**
'I forgot it, thank you.'

Bixtse'nh eyo'o ne'ella?
'Why are you dancing today?'

Raquel: **Eya'a kwents enaba' yiyak bene' tsia'nh.**
'I will dance to ask my husband to get better.'

Beto: **Wenh lanh enabu' tsee'.**
'It's good that you're asking for him.'

Raquel: **Yo'o tsjaya'adzu lla!**
'Let's go dance!'

Exercise

Perform the dialogue with one of your classmates for everybody else.

2. Review: ‘

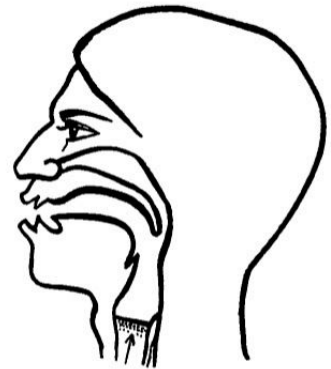
Last time, we learned about how vowels in Zapotec receive a special pronunciation when they combine with ‘:

a	<u>ya</u>	‘temazcal’
a’	<u>cha</u> ’	‘pot (cazuela)’
a’a	<u>za</u> ’a	‘corn (elote)’

Wherever ‘ is present (after a vowel or between two vowels), the air stream is stopped by closing the vocal folds.

Exercise

Now, we will play a game that requires you to pronounce vowels with the apostrophe. In Zapotec, there are words whose meanings are differentiated solely by whether an apostrophe is present or not.



With a partner, pick one word in each set below to pronounce. Can your partner guess which one you are saying? Take turns being the Speaker and Guesser. (Some of these words are new: don’t try to learn them now. Just concentrate on how they are pronounced.)

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1. yu | ‘earth (tierra)’ | 5. lhe | ‘name (nombre)’ |
| yu’u | ‘house (casa)’ | lhe’ | ‘you (tú)’ |
| | | lhe’e | ‘you all (ustedes)’ |
| 2. ya | ‘temazcal’ | 6. bi | ‘what, which (que, cual)’ |
| ya’a | ‘mountain (montaña)’ | bi’i | ‘child (niña/o)’ |
| 3. ga | ‘where (dónde)’ | 7. La’ | ‘Oaxaca’ |
| ga’ | ‘green (verde)’ | la’a | ‘gash (raja)’ |
| 4. de | ‘ash (ceniza)’ | | |
| de’e | ‘thing (cosa)’ | | |

3. Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe a property or quality. Here are some useful adjectives in Zapotec for describing how big or small people are:

las tone'	'skinny (flaca/o)' 'tall (alta/o)'	xhenh chaparw	'fat (gorda/o)' 'short (chaparra/o)'
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and some more for describing how old they are:

7–17 years

18–25 years

26–59 years

>60 years



xkwide'
'little, young
(chica/o)'

wegu'
'young (joven)'

wak
'adult (grande)'

gulhe
'elderly (mayor)'

Exercise

Maestra Fe will hold up an illustration of a person and ask a student to describe them using one of these adjectives. (If more than one is applicable, just pick one.)

Tarjetas

Memorize these adjectives using these digital flashcards:

<https://babel.ucsc.edu/tarjetas/adjectives/>

4. Combining adjectives with nouns

Of course, people don't go around using adjectives alone. To describe someone, you combine an adjective with a noun.

Languages differ in how they do this. In English, the **adjective** *precedes* the **noun**, while in Spanish the **adjective** *mostly follows* the **noun**:

English
tall **child**
elderly **person**

Spanish
niña alta
persona mayor

In Zapotec, the **adjective** *always follows* the **noun**:

bi'i tone'
bene' gulhe

'tall child'
'elderly person'

Exercise

Below each image is a combination of a noun and an adjective. When Maestra Fe calls on you, describe the image in Zapotec, combining the noun and adjective *in the correct order*.

(a)



skinny + child

(b)



fat + person

(c)



adult + person

(d)



short + child

(e)



elderly + person

(f)



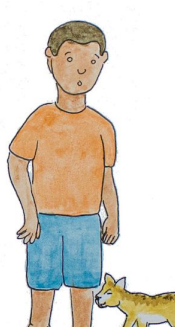
short + person

(g)



skinny + person

(h)



little + child

(i)



young + person

5. More than one adjective

The words we have been using to describe people's gender — whether they are male or female — are actually combinations of nouns and adjectives:

bi'i <u>nhu'ulhe</u>	'girl'	bene' <u>nhu'ulhe</u>	'woman'
bi'i <u>xyag</u>	'boy'	bene' <u>xyag</u>	'man'

More than one adjective can be used together; they all still *follow* the noun.

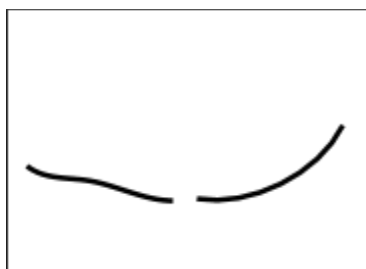
bi'i <u>nhu'ulhe tone'</u>	'tall girl (niña alta)'
bene' <u>xyag xhenh gulhe</u>	'fat elderly man (hombre gordo mayor)'

Exercise: Guess who

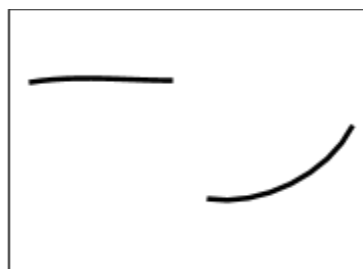
With a partner, play “Guess Who?”, using the playing board below. In each game, one person is the Asker and the other is the Answerer. The board contains nine pictures of people. The Answerer picks one of these people and the other has to “guess who” by asking yes-no questions. The Answerer can only respond by saying ò'ò 'yes' or ó'ò 'no'. The game ends with the Asker has picked the right picture.

Asking and answering yes-no questions		
E _____?		
'Is/Are _____?'		
Ò,ò. 'Yes.'	or	Ó'ò. 'No.'

Remember that the words ò'ò 'yes' or ó'ò 'no' may sound very similar to one another, but they have different intonations:

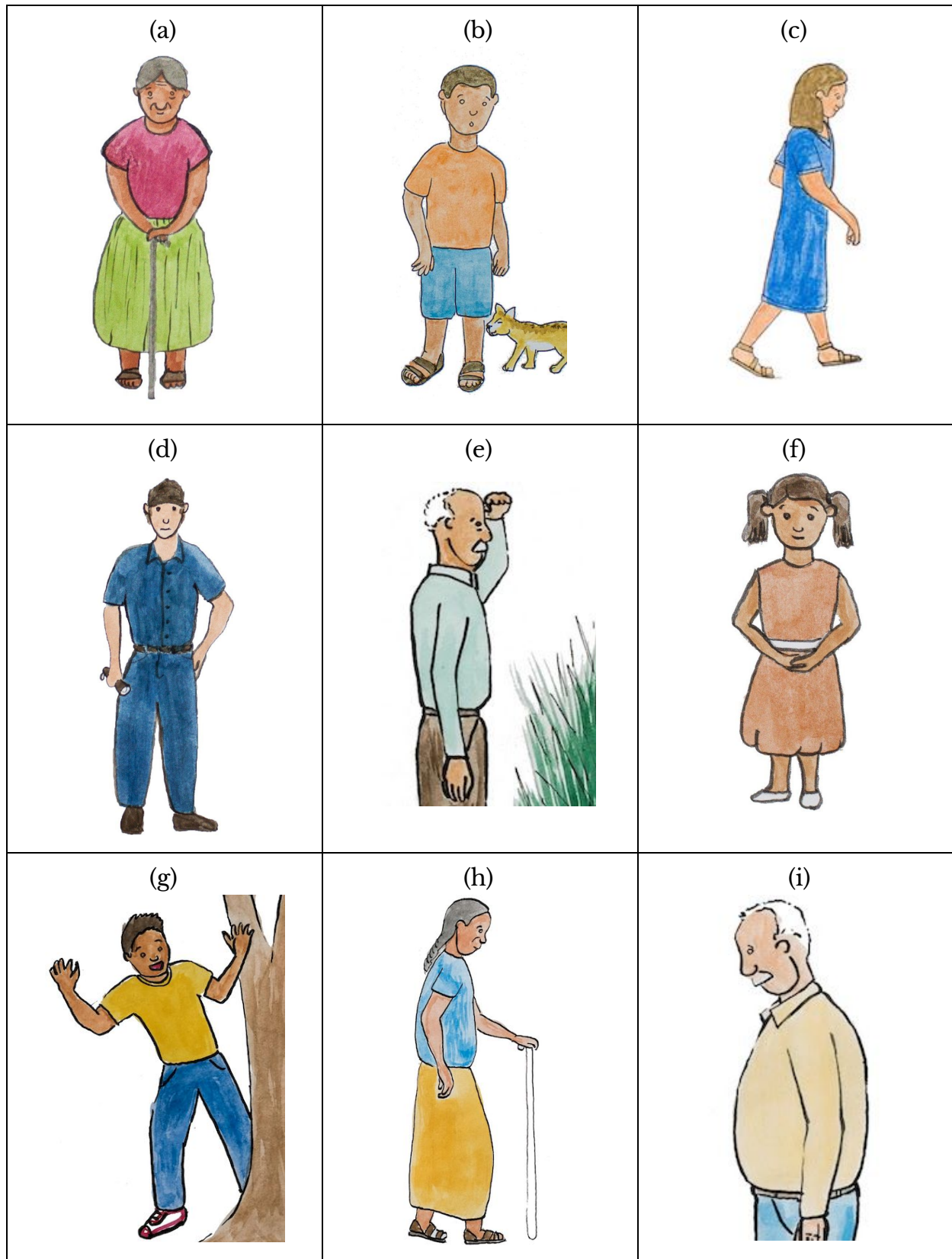


Ò'ò. 'Yes.'
([listen](#))



Ó'ò. 'No.'
([listen](#))

"Guess Who?" Playing Board



6. Final dialogue: Ya 'temazcal'

The **ya 'temazcal'** is an important part of traditional medicine in Laxopa. It is a small chamber, located near the kitchen or elsewhere in the house, that is heated. First, a fire is lit in a small area next to the temazcal that also contains rocks. Once the fire has burned down and the rocks are hot, you enter the temazcal. You pour water over the rocks to create steam.

The temazcal is used to cure many illnesses. If you have a cold or if your body aches, the heat and steam of the temazcal are healing. For certain diseases, you might add medicinal herbs. A *curandera* might give you a massage in the temazcal, after your muscles have been relaxed by the heat. When women give birth, they use the temazcal to heal their body.



Beto is coming back from a long day of working in the fields, when Raquel sees him.

Raquel: **Gak guk tsiu' ne'ella?**
'How was your day?'

Beto: **Lastuma tsjaxake'eda'!**
'My body really hurts!'

Raquel: **La'a benhzju' llinha'.**
'Because you've worked very hard.'

Chi uyu'u ya'nh?
'Will you go into the temazcal?'

Beto: **Kalha'nh dzikda'.**
'That is what I'm thinking.'

Raquel: **E weka' llanh ya'nh?**
'Should I start the temazcal?'

Beto: **Benhshkawklhen lla.**
'Please do that.'

Exercise

Listen carefully to Maestra Fe recite the dialogue above. Then repeat each sentence after her.

You can practice the dialogue at home by listening to the recording here:

<http://wlma.ucsc.edu/nidodelenguas/clases/2021/4-dialogue.mp3>

7. Homework

7.1. Word jumbles. We have now learned where adjectives appear in relation to nouns. Below, you will find a “jumble” of nouns and adjectives in the wrong order. Rearrange each of them so that nouns and adjectives appear in the correct order.

1. tone' bi'i xyag

Correction: _____

2. gulhe nhu'ulhe bene'

Correction: _____

3. weya'a las bi'i chaparw

Correction: _____

4. xkwide' nhu'ulhe bi'i xhenh

Correction: _____

5. skwel wak bene' tone'

Correction: _____

7.2. Translation. Translate each of the (now correct) combinations above into English or Spanish.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

7.3. *Is this the right person?* Each question below asks about the person in the picture. First, translate the question into English or Spanish. Then, answer the question by circling either ò'o 'yes' or ó'o 'no'. If you don't remember how these words are pronounced, go back to review them on p. 7.



1. E bene' xyag wegu' tone'?

Translation: _____

Choose one: ò'o ó'o



2. E bi'i nhu'ule xkwide'?

Translation: _____

Choose one: ò'o ó'o



3. E bene' nhu'ule xhenh?

Translation: _____

Choose one: ò'o ó'o



4. E bi'i nhu'ulhe chaparw?

Translation: _____

Choose one: ò'o ó'o

7.4. *Memorize.* Listen to the final dialogue online several times:

<http://wlma.ucsc.edu/nidodelenguas/clases/2021/4-dialogue.mp3>

Then, memorize the dialogue. Practice being both Beto and Raquel. If you can, practice with your classmates too. We will start our next class by asking students to perform the dialogue.

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You can look up the meaning or pronunciation for any word in the online Zapotec dictionary:

<http://zapotec.ucsc.edu/slz/dictionary.html>