

Nido de Lenguas: Clases

Class 6 – March 4, 2021

GOALS

- To review continuous and completed forms for verbs
- To learn some words for animals
- To learn how to talk about where things are located
- To learn about the *ya'a* 'market (mercado)'



The *ya'a* 'market (mercado)' in a nearby town

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: **E ba belho'o?**
'Are you back?'

Beto: **O'ó, ze nhua' za'a.**
'Yes, I have brought some corn.'

Raquel: **Wenh gulhe! Nha' gundzu yetgu za'a.**
'Great! Now we can make tamales de elote.'

Sulodzu tsuxdzunh lla nha' xubdzunh.
'Let's shuck it and remove the kernels.'

Beto: **Wakkse'.**
'Okay.'

Raquel: **Ba de xche' godzu!**
'That will be our dinner!'

Exercise

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

2. Review: Continuous and completed forms for verbs

Remember that, in Zapotec, to talk about actions that *are taking place now*, you use the continuous form of the verb:

shtahs	‘sleep (dormir)’	shnhabdille’	‘greet (saludar)’
shcheb	‘scare (asustar)’	shnhide’	‘hug (abrazar)’
shkache’e	‘hide (escondarse)’	shnhupe’	‘kiss (besar)’

To talk about events that *have already taken place*, you use the completed form:

btahs	‘sleep (dormir)’	bnhabdille’	‘greet (saludar)’
bcheb	‘scare (asustar)’	bnhide’	‘hug (abrazar)’
bkache’e	‘hide (escondarse)’	bnhupe’	‘kiss (besar)’

Exercise

Maestra Fe will hold up a picture depicting an action and a time. State the correct form of the verb for that time: either the *continuous* form or the *completed* form.

3. Animals



In **Laxup**, there are many animals, both domesticated and wild:

beku'	'dog (perro)'	xhile'	'sheep (borrego)'
xhidw	'cat (gato)'	gu'n	'bull (toro)'
bell	'puma'	bedzjw	'turkey (guajolote)'
jia	'rooster (gallo)'	beze'	'fox (zorro)'

Exercise A

Maestra Fe will hold up a picture of an animal. Say the name for that animal.

Exercise B

Now, Maestra Fe will hold up a picture of an animal doing something to a person or a person doing something to an animal. Take turns describing what happened *using the completed form*.

Here are some words for describing the people in these pictures:

bi'i nhu'ulhe	'girl'	bene' nhu'ulhe	'woman'
bi'i xyag	'boy'	bene' xyag	'man'

But, you should feel free to use any descriptions for people you remember from our previous classes.

Remember that the verb goes first in the sentence, followed by the subject and then the object:

Making a sentence

----- 'nh -----'nh.
(verb) (subject) (object)

'The ----- the -----.'
(subject) (verb) (object)

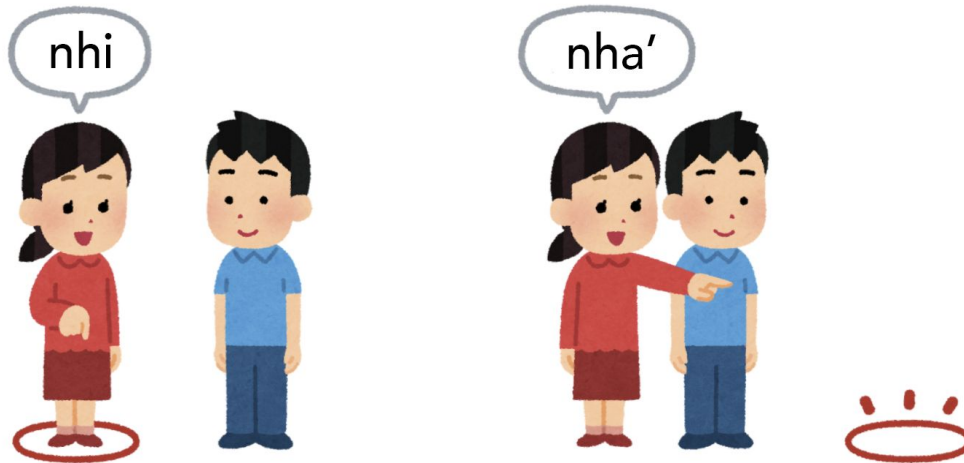
Tarjetas

You can memorize these names for animals using digital flashcards:

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

4. Talking about locations

Zapotec has two words for expressing location relative to the speaker: **nhi** 'here (aquí)' and **nha'** 'there (ahí).'



You can put these words into a sentence to describe where someone or something is located. For living beings, this requires you to describe what *posture* they are in, using one of the following verbs:



ze
'stand
(estar parado)'



dzi'
'sit
(estar sentado)'



de
'be lying down
(estar acostado)'

Here are some examples:

Nhi ze beku'nh.
Nha' dzi' bene' xyage'nh.
Nhi de xhidw'nh.

'Here is the dog (standing).'
'There is the man (sitting).'
'Here is the cat (lying down).'

How to describe where something is located

Nhi/Nha' ze/dzi'/de _____'nh.
 here/there standing/sitting/lying down
 'Here/there is the _____.'

Exercise

Take turns completing the following sentences with the appropriate word(s): this might be a noun, a posture verb, or a location word.

(a)



Nha' _____ bi'i nhu'ulhe'nh.
 'There is the girl.'

(b)



_____ de bene' xyage'nh.
 'Here is the man.'

(c)



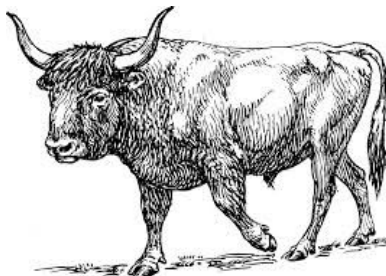
Nhi de _____'nh.
 'Here is the cat.'

(d)



Nhi _____'nh.
 'Here is the girl.'

(e)



_____ gu'ne'nh.
 'There is the bull.'

(f)



Nha' _____nh.
 'There is the dog.'

(g)



_____nh.
'Here is the woman.'

(h)



_____nh.
'There is the dog.'

(i)



_____nh.
'There is the woman.'

5. Final dialogue: Ya'a 'market (mercado)'

For the people of **Laxup**, the nearby town of **Xhgulle'** 'San Bartolomé Zoogocho' is extremely important. In **Xhgulle'**, a weekly market (**ya'a**) takes place that attracts shoppers from across the Sierra Norte, as well as people selling the products that are produced in their town.

When you need something that is not produced in **Laxup**, you go to the market to buy it. This might be something that comes from another part of the Sierra Norte (bread, live animals, bananas, tomatoes) or as far away as Oaxaca City or the coast (papayas, mangos, pineapples).

To go to the **ya'a** from **Laxup**, you have to wake up very early. The bus to **Xhgulle'** passes by at 4 am, arriving at the market one hour later. While some people use money at the **ya'a**, many people still use the traditional *trueque* (bartering) system.

Beto and Raquel want to start raising chickens, so they go to the **ya'a** in **Xhgulle'** to buy a half a dozen **jiddo'** 'chick (pollo)'. They have just returned to **Laxup**, and they now have to get their new pets settled.

Beto: **Xhudzidzgwa zjanake' jiddo' tsedzu'nh.**
'How beautiful our little chick are!'

Raquel: **Ga xhenh ku'udzub na'a?**
'Where are we going to put them now?'

Beto: **Xtido' gunha' lilldo'be'nh.**
'I will quickly make them a little coop.'

Raquel: **Nha' gualla' lhe'.**
'I will help you.'

Beto: **Lla lla sulodzu.**
'Okay, let's start.'

Raquel: **Xhudzi yiga'anenh!**
'It will look beautiful!'



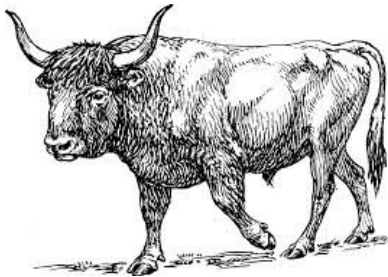
You can listen to the final dialogue online here:

<https://wlma.ucsc.edu/nidodelenguas/clases/2021/6-dialogue.mp3>

6. Homework

6.1. *Fill in the blank.* Complete each sentence below, using the picture and translation as your guide. Remember to use the correct posture verb for each sentence.

(a)



-----e'nh.
'Here is the bull.'

(b)



-----'enh.
'There is the man.'

(c)



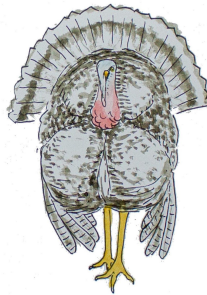
-----'nh.
'Here is the cat.'

(d)



-----'nh.
'There is the cat.'

(e)



-----'nh.
'Here is the turkey.'

(f)



-----nh.
'There is the dog.'

(g)



_____ 'nh.
'There is the girl.'

(h)



_____ e'nh.
'Here is the man.'

(f)



_____ 'nh.
'There is the woman.'

6.2. *Story.* Using all the nouns, adjectives, and verbs you have learned in this class and past classes, write a story of six sentences in Zapotec. Try to make it as engaging and exciting as possible!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

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

<https://wlma.ucsc.edu/nidodelenguas/clases/2021/6-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.