Part VI   More Affixes

PARTICLES

Verbs and nouns tend to be complex in Oneida because they can have many internal parts. The particles, however, are simpler in form. They tend to be short - one, two, or three syllables. They perform a number of different functions in the language, some of them are quite straightforward and have easy English translations, while others cover ranges of meaning that are subtle and nearly impossible to translate. Sometimes a sequence of particles has a meaning that is distinct from the meaning of any of the particles in the sequence. The use of particles is part of what distinguishes different styles of speaking. More are used in ceremonial speech, for example.

One can begin to learn the particles by grouping some of the more straightforward ones by function. They deal with time, place, extent, grammatical connectives, and conversational interaction.

Question Particles

náhte?	*what*
náhohte	*what* (sentence final form)
úhka náhte?	*who*
kánhke	*when*
to nikaha·wí·	*when*
kátsa? nu	*where* (requires a locative or partitive prefix)
kátsa? ka·yʌ́·	*which one*
náhte? aolí·wa?	*why, for what reason*
oh ni·yót	*how*
to ni·kú	*how much*
to niha·tí	*how many people*
to niku·tí	*how many females*

Time Particles

elhúwa	*recently*
o·nʌ́ or nʌ	*now, or at that time*
úwa or núwa or nu?ú	*now, or today*
oksa?	*right away, soon*
swatye·lʌ́	*sometimes*
tyótkut	*always*
yotká·te	*always*
yah nuwʌ·tú	*never*

Place Particles

ákta	*nearby*
ákte	*somewhere else*
átste	*outside*
é·nike	*up, above*
ehtá·ke	*down, below*
kʌ·tho	*here*
kʌh nu	*here*
kʌh nukwá	*this way*
ohná·kʌ	*back, behind*
ohʌ·tú	*ahead, in front*
ná·ku	*underneath*
tho nukwá	*there*
aʔe nukwá	*over there, away*
isi nukwá	*over there, far away*

Agreement Particles

ʌ́·ʌ	*yes*
né·	*yes, it is so*
né· wah	*yes, it is so*
né· kiʔ wah	*yes, indeed*
to·kʌ́ske	*for sure*
khele	*I guess, it seems so*
khelé kiʔ wah	*I guess so*
kwaʔnyó	*it seems*
wé·ne kiʔ wah	*it seems so*
úhteʔ wi	*maybe so*
tá·t nuʔú	maybe so
yáhtʌ	*no*
táh	*no*
to·káh	*I don't know*
áhsu	*not yet*

Extent Particles

e·só	*much, a lot*
ostúha	*a little*
kwah i·kʌ́ tsiʔ	*very much* (before verbs)
só·tsiʔ	*very much, too much*
tsiléhkwah	*almost*
akwe·kú	*all*

Connective Particles

okhaleʔ	*and* (connecting two objects)
ok neʔn	*or*
okhnaʔ	*and then*
táhnu	*and then*
nok tsiʔ	*but*
ok	*and* (used in counting large numbers)
tho neʔ oˑnʌ́	*then*

Relative Particles

tsiʔ kaˑyʌ́ˑ	*the one who*
tsiʔ náhteʔ	*whatever*
kanyó (onʌ́)	*when, whenever*
tho nu	*then*
kátsaʔ ok nu	*somewhere*
tsyok náhteʔ	*something, somethings*
úhka ok náhteʔ	*someone*

Conversational Interaction Particles

sheˑkú	*hello, still, again*
yawʌʔkó	*thanks*
yo	*you're welcome*
hao	*come on!*
akeˑ	*ouch*
oˑnʌ́ kiʔ wah	*good by*
niˑyót	*how it is, look at that!*
otsé	*wow!*
tho niˑkú̱	*that's enough*

THE DUALIC PREFIX

There are eleven prefixes that can be attached to verbs before the pronoun prefix. Each of the eleven has a grammatical label, a range of uses and meanings, and rules that affect its form and potential to combine with other prefixes. We have already met some of these prefixes. There are the three tense prefixes: the future, the aorist, and the indefinite tense. Earlier on we encountered the negative prefix. And then there were three more prefixes used in counting: the iterative **s-**; the dualic **te-**; and the partitive **ni-**.

The dualic meant *two* in counting, but it has other uses as well. There are quite a few verb stems that require the dualic prefix. For example, the following all require the dualic prefix:

-teni-   *change*   subjective pronouns
    -tényehse?   serial   (current activity)
    -te·ní·   punctual
    -te·ní   imperative
    -tényu   perfective

-awʌlye-   *stir, move around*   subjective pronouns
    -awʌ́lyehe?   serial   (current activity)
    -awʌ́lye?   punctual
    -awʌ́lye   imperative
    -awʌ́lye   perfective

-khahsy-   *divide, separate*   subjective pronouns
    -kháhsyus   serial   (current activity)
    -kháhsyi   punctual
    -kháhsyi   imperative
    -kháhsyu   perfective

-thal-   *converse, talk*   subjective pronouns
    -thálha?   serial
    -tha·lʌ́·   punctual
    -thal   imperative
    -thale?   perfective   (current activity)

-nuhwelatu-   *thank, greet* transitive pronouns (variants: **-nehelatu-** or **-nuhelatu-**)
    -nuhwela·túhe?   serial
    -nuhwela·tú·   punctual
    -nuhwela·tú   imperative
    -nuhwela·tú   perfective

-nuwayʌht-   *shop, trade, barter* subjective pronouns

    -nuwayʌ́tha?   serial (current activity)
    -nuwa·yʌ́hte?   punctual
    -nuwa·yʌ́ht   imperative
    -nuwayʌ́htu   perfective

-ya?toleht-   *judge, decide*   transitive pronouns

    -ya?tolétha?   serial
    -ya?to·léhte?   punctual
    -ya?to·léht   imperative
    -ya?toléhtu   perfective (current activity)

Words built from these stems always use the dualic prefix, even though it contributes no easily discernible meaning. There are, however, a few verb stems that have one meaning with a dualic prefix and another without it. For example, -ya?k- means *break* without a dualic prefix but it means *break in two* with a dualic prefix; -atati- means *speak* without the dualic prefix but *respond* with it.

The dualic prefix combines with the tense prefixes in the following ways:

dualic alone	**te-**
aorist and dualic	**wa?t-**
future and dualic	**tʌ-**
indefinite and dualic	**ta-**

The dualic prefix is almost identical to the negative prefix. The negative prefix **te(?)-** usually has a glottal stop but that drops off if the next sound is -**h**- or -**s**-. It is still possible to tell them apart. The negative prefix is always used with a negative particle, most often **yah**. If you learn which verb stems require the dualic prefix, then you will know to expect it. When you want to express the negative of a verb that requires the dualic, then the two prefixes combine as **tha?te-** (never as **te?te-** or **tete?-**). The negative prefix is never used with any of the three tense prefixes. Instead, when you want to express the negative and the tense meanings, a different prefix called the contrastive is used:

aorist and contrastive	**tha?-**
aorist and contrastive and dualic	**tha?t-**
future and contrastive	**thʌ-**
future and contrastive and dualic	**tha?tʌ-**
indefinite and contrastive	**tha-**
indefinite and contrastive and dualic	**tha?ta-**

Some examples:

context form	isolation form	
teyuwʌ́lyehe?	**teyuwʌ́lyehe**	*she stirs it*
wa?thawʌ́lye?	**wa?thawʌ́li**	*he stirred it*
tʌkawʌ́lye?	**tʌkawʌ́li**	*I will stir it*

tákʌ tʌhsawʌ́lyeʔ	takʌ tʌhsawʌ́li	*don't stir it!*
yah thaʔtehonawʌ́lye	yah thaʔtehonawʌ́li	*they haven't stirred it*

teha·yá·ks	*he breaks it in two*
waʔtye·yá·keʔ	*she broke it in two*
tewakyá·ku	*I have broken it in two*
yah thaʔtewakyá·ku	*I haven't broken it in two*
yah thaʔtʌye·yá·keʔ	*she will not break it in two*

teyenuhsatényehseʔ	*she changes houses*
waʔthanuhsate·ní·	*he changed the house*
yah thaʔteyenuhsatényehseʔ	*she doesn't change houses*
i·kélheʔ taknuhsate·ní·	*I want to change the house*

tehotíthaleʔ	*they are talking*
lanú·wehseʔ tahatha·lʌ́·	*he likes to talk*
tákʌ tʌstha·lʌ́	*don't talk!*

tʌshukwanuhwela·tú·	*he will thank us*
waʔteshukwanuhwela·tú·	*he thanked us*
tashukwanuhwela·tú·	*he should thank us*
tʌkhenuhwela·tú·	*I will thank them*

washakoyaʔto·léhteʔ	*he judged them*
tehatinuwayʌ́thaʔ	*they are shopping*
waʔtyenuwa·yʌ́hteʔ	*she shopped*
waʔthakháhsyi	*he divided it*

i - y changes - a sound rule

The sound -y- is the consonantal form of the vowel -i-. A conversion from one to the other often happens depending on whether the surrounding sounds are consonants or vowels. For example, stems ending in -i- often change to -y- before suffixes beginning with vowels as the final -i- in the verb -teni- *change* changes before the serial suffix -ehseʔ.

Another place a conversion happens is in words that end in a vowel then a consonant then -y- and then a vowel. With such words the isolation or sentence final form does not whisper the final syllable but instead converts the -y- and vowel into -i-.

	context form	isolation form
he has changed it	tehotényu	tehoténi
I stirred it	waʔtkawʌ́lyeʔ	waʔtkawʌ́li
sit down!	sátyʌ	sáti

Notice that the isolation forms appear to violate the accent rules (accent before a single consonant), but recall that the accent rules apply to the context forms only. You can in fact reason that when an isolation form ends in an accented vowel plus a single consonant (other than -**h**-) plus -**i**- that the corresponding context form ends in the accented vowel plus the single consonant plus -**y**- plus some vowel.

$$...VCi \rightarrow ...VCyV$$

where V stands for vowel and C for consonant

ITERATIVE PREFIX

With the counting verb -**at** the iterative prefix means *one* but with most other verbs the iterative prefix is like the English *re*-. It is usually translated as either *back* as in *return* or as *again* as in *redo*. The usual form of the iterative is **s**-. Before a pronoun prefix that begins with -**y**- the iterative prefix is **ts**-. It combines with the tense prefixes and dualic prefix in the following ways:

iterative	alone				**s**- (or **ts**- before -**y**-)
iterative	and	dualic			**tes**-
iterative	and	aorist			**sa**-
iterative	and	aorist	and	dualic	**tusa**-
iterative	and	future			**ʌs**-
iterative	and	future	and	dualic	**tʌs**-
iterative	and	indefinite			**usa**-
iterative	and	indefinite	and	dualic	**tusa**-

Sometimes the iterative prefix creates an idiomatic meaning. For example, the verb -**ahtʌti**- means *leave* or *set out*, but with the iterative prefix it means *go home*.

Examples:
i·kélheʔ akahtʌ·tí·	*I want to leave* (no iterative)
i·kélheʔ usakahtʌ·tí·	*I want to go home* (with iterative)
tákʌ ʌhsahtʌ·tí·	*don't leave!*
tákʌ ʌsehsahtʌ·tí·	*don't go home!*
nok ʌwa·tú ʌkahtʌ·tí·	*I have to leave*
nok ʌwa·tú ʌskahtʌ·tí·	*I have to go home*
shahtʌtyehseʔ	*he goes home*
tsyakohtʌtyu	*she's gone home*

Note that the iterative prefix sometimes is easy to confuse with the pronoun prefix for *you*.

satekhu·níheʔ	*you are eating*	(**s**- here is the pronoun *you*)
shatekhu·níheʔ	*he is eating again*	(**s**- here is the iterative prefix and **ha**- is the pronoun *he*)

The pronunciations of these two are very close but different.

The iterative is also used in turning descriptions into names.

skakahláksʌ	*walleyed pike*	(kakahláksʌ *it has bad eyes*)
tsyoná·kales	*ox*	(yoná·kales *it has long horns*)
skʌhnáksʌ	*fox*	(kʌhnáksʌ *it has bad skin*)

LOCATION AND DIRECTION: CISLOCATIVE AND TRANSLOCATIVE PREFIXES

Oneida has many particles that have to do with location just as English does but it also has two verb prefixes for location and direction. They are the translocative (**ye-**) and the cislocative (**t-**). On verbs of motion they indicate the direction: translocative is away and cislocative is towards. With other verbs they indicate location: translocative is far away and cislocative is simply located somewhere. There are some verbs that require a locative prefix but for the most part the locative prefixes are optional, although in general more Oneida speakers opt to use them (usually along with some particles) than English speakers might.

Both of the locatives combine with other prefixes and here are the combinations with the tense prefixes:

cislocative alone	**t-**
translocative alone	**ye-**
cislocative and aorist	**ta-**
translocative and aorist	**yaʔ-**
cislocative and future	**ʌt-**
translocatve and future	**yʌ-**
cislocative and indefinite	**uta-**
translocative and indefinite	**ya-**

The verb stem **-hawe-** can mean either *take* or *bring* depending on which locative prefix is used:

yaháhaweʔ	*he took it away*
taháhaweʔ	*he brought it here*

The locative prefixes can also combine with the iterative prefix:

yusáhaweʔ	*he took it back*
tusáhaweʔ	*he brought it back*

Similarly the stem **-atʌnyeht-** *send* can use a locative prefix to indicate the direction of sending:

tahsatʌ́nyeht	*send it here!*
yahsatʌ́nyeht	*send it away!*

The cislocative is easy to confuse with the dualic if you don't pay close attention to the order of sounds. There are times, however, when it is impossible to tell from a single word. The phrase *where do you live?* from the sample vocabulary is:

<p align="center">kátsaʔ nu tesnákeh<u>le</u></p>

Kátsaʔ nu means *where* so **tesnákeh<u>le</u>** is the verb meaning *you live*. The **-s-** is the pronoun prefix for *you*. What is the prefix **te**-? Is it a dualic prefix implying this verb requires a dualic prefix? Or is it the cislocative prefix with an epenthetic -e- signifying *you live there*? From that one word it is impossible to tell. But if you know the phrase for *where does he live?*, which is:

<p align="center">kátsaʔ nu thanákeh<u>le</u></p>

then you can reason that -ha- is the pronoun prefix for *he* so the t- must be a cislocative prefix, not a dualic prefix which would have been **te**-. This kind of reasoning by comparing forms is typically necessary when you learn new vocabulary from a native speaker.

The cislocative is often used with nouns that have orientational verbs on them. Particles are usually used as well.

tsiʔ thonúhsot<u>e</u>	*at his house*
tsiʔ tyakonúhsot<u>e</u>	*at her house*
tsiʔ tkana·táy<u>ʌ</u>	*at the settlement, in town*
ohʌ·tú tsiʔ tkanúhsot<u>e</u>	*in front of the house*
ohʌ·tú tsiʔ tkanyata·láy<u>ʌ</u>	*in front of the lake*
ohná·kʌ tsiʔ tkanúhsot<u>e</u>	*behind the house*
ohná·kʌ tsiʔ tkalu·tót<u>e</u>	*behind the tree*

Sometimes the cislocative can create idiomatic phrases:

<p align="center">cislocative t + pronoun ho + verb ahtʌty + perfective ʌ = thohtʌtyʌ</p>
<p align="center"><i>where he has set out from</i> = <i>his house</i></p>
(Note: the isolation form of this word is **thohtʌti**.)

Here are some verbs that are used with a cislocative prefix:

-atilut-   *pull*   (serial -**ha**ʔ; punctual -ʌ; perfective -ʔ)

thatilútha?	*he's pulling it*
tayutilu·tʌ́	*she pulled it*
twakati·lúteʔ	*I have pulled it*

(Note: this verb is also used with a dualic prefix instead of the cislocative. The meaning changes from *pull* to *stretch*.)

-ʔnikuhlayelit-   *please, satisfy*   (serial -s; punctual -ʔ; perfective -u)

teshakoʔnikuhlaye·líts	*he pleases them*
ʌteshukwaʔnikuhlaye·líteʔ	*he'll satisfy us*

-lihwayelit-   *tell the truth*

tyelihwaye·líts	*she tells the truth*
taslihwaye·líteʔ	*you told the truth*
twaklihwayeli·tú	*I've told the truth*

-atke?tot-   *peek out*   (serial -**ha?**; punctual -**ʌ**; perfective -**?**)
  thatke?tótha?   *he peeks out*
  tayutke?to·tʌ́   *she peeked out*

-anuhtu-   *have one's way, decide*   (serial -**he?**; punctual -**?**; perfective **?u**)
  thanúhtuhe?   *he decides things*
  ʌtyunúhtu?   *she will have her way*

-atahsaw-   *start*
  tahatáhsawʌ   *he started*

-ehtahkw-   *believe*
  twakehtáhkwʌ   *I believe*

MOTION VERBS

There are a handful of verbs ending in -**e** and expressing motion (e.g. *run, chase, drag*) that have a few peculiarities. Unlike many other verbs whose serial form expresses both habitual activity and current activity, these verbs have separate forms for the two meanings. A serial form -**hse?** expresses habitual activity and the lack of a suffix expresses current action. The punctual suffix is -**?** and the perfective suffix is -**nu**. The serial past is -**skwe** and the perfective past is -**nu·hné·**.

The other peculiarity of these motion verbs is that the aorist prefix functions in place of the translocative to mean action going away.

  latákhehse?   *he runs*
  latákhe   *he is running*
  ʌhatákhe?   *he will run*
  lotakhenú   *he has run, he ran*
  wahatákhe   *he is running away, he ran off*
  tahatákhe   *he is running this way*
  latákheskwe   *he used to run*
  lotakhenu·hné·   *he had run*

VERB STEM STRUCTURE
So far the map of an Oneida verb is the following:

PREFIXES -	PRONOUN -	VERB STEM	- ASPECT	- EXTENDED
	PREFIXES		SUFFIX	SUFFIXES

There are eleven prefixes:
  three tenses: aorist, future, indefinite
  two locations: cislocative, translocative
  and six others: iterative, dualic, partitive, negative, contrastive, coincident
There are three types of pronoun prefixes: subjective, objective, transitive (each with subclasses dependent on the initial sound in the verb stem)
There are four aspect suffixes: serial, punctual, imperative, perfective
There are several extended suffixes, including: past serial, past perfective, and progressive.

The verb stem itself may be fairly simple (there are a few that are represented by just a single letter) or it may be quite complex. The internal structure of verb stems follows this map:

REFLEXIVES -	INCORPORATED (EXTENDER)-	STEM - VERB ROOT -	ROOT SUFFIXES
	NOUN ROOT	JOINER	

All complex verb stems have to have at least a verb root. The other elements may occur depending on the stem. The stem joiner, which is always the vowel -a-, adds no particular meaning but is used simply to join a noun root ending in a consonant to a verb root beginning with one.

noun root	extender	stem joiner	verb root	English	stem
-wʌn-			-isak-	*look for words*	-wʌnisak-
			-anuhte-	*know*	-anuhte-
-hwist-		-a-	-yʌ-	*have money*	-hwistayʌ-
-nuhkwat-	-sl-	-a-	-yʌ-	*have medicine*	-nuhkwatslayʌ-
-nuhkwat-	-sl-		-isak-	*look for medicine*	-nuhkwatslisak-
			-atolat-	*hunt*	-atolat-

REFLEXIVE

The most common form of the reflexive is -at-, but other forms are used with particular stems. An epenthetic -e- is sometimes needed to break up an unacceptable cluster of consonants. If the next sound after the reflexive is an -i-, then the reflexive is -an- instead of -at-. There are also particular stems that select -al- or -atʌ- or -a- as their reflexive. All forms of the reflexive start with -a- and since the reflexive always comes at the beginning of verb stems, that means that verbs with reflexives are all a-stems.

The meaning of the reflexive is a bit variable. For some verbs adding a reflexive means that the action is done for or to the doer of the action.

-wʌnisak-	*look for words*
-atwʌnisak-	*look for words for oneself*
-khahsy-	*separate, split*
-atekhahsy-	*divorce* (separate self)
-yʌ-	*set, place*
-atyʌ-	*sit (set oneself)*
-awʌlye-	*stir*
-atawʌlye-	*travel (stir oneself)*

Many times, however, adding the reflexive creates an idiomatic shift in the meaning:

-khuni-	*cook*
-atekhuni-	*eat*
-hninu-	*buy*
-atʌhninu-	*sell*
-ʔskut-	*burn*
-ateʔskut-	*fry*
-hloli-	*tell*
-athloli-	*tell about*

Full Reflexive

There is also a kind of reflexive called the full reflexive which has only one form -**atat(e)**- and which means that the same individual both does and receives the action. The other reflexive is sometimes called the semi-reflexive to distinguish it from this full reflexive.

-noluhkw-	*love*
-atatnoluhkw-	*love oneself*

When combined with the full reflexive the dualic prefix **te-** adds the meaning of a reciprocal action.

tehutatnolúkhwaʔ	*they love each other*

ROOT SUFFIXES

There is a small class of suffixes that are sometimes used to extend a verb. These suffixes occur singly and in combinations before the aspect suffixes. In fact, when they occur, these suffixes and not the verb root itself determine the forms for the aspect suffixes. This class of suffixes contains the following:

instrumental	*do with,* or *use it to do*	
distributive	*do here and there*	(see page 83)
causative	*cause to do,* or *make one do*	(see page 82)
dative	*do for one*	(see page 107)
dislocative	*go do*	(see page 65)
inchoative	*become*	(see page 110)
undoer	reverse action	(see page 111)

Instrumental

We will postpone discussion of most of these until later, but for now we will take a look at the instrumental suffix. It has several forms -ht-, -ʔt-, -st-, -hkw- with particular verbs selecting among them.   With the aspect suffixes these are:

serial	-thaʔ	-´·thaʔ	-staʔ	-khwaʔ
punctual	-hteʔ	-hteʔ/ -´·teʔ	-steʔ	-hkweʔ
imperative	-ht	-ht	-st	-hk
perfective	-htu	-htu/ -´·tu	-stu	-hkwʌ

The meaning of this suffix is to focus on something used in doing the action such as a tool or special place. For example:

-atolat-	hunt	-atolatst-	*hunt with it*
-ateswaʔt	*play*	-ateswaʔtahkw-	*play with it*
-atekhuni-	*eat*	-atekhunyaʔt-	*eat with it*
-hninu-	*buy*	-hninuʔt-	*buy with it*
-lihwahkw-	*sing*	-lihwahkwaʔt-	*sing with it*
-ohale-	*clean*	-ohaleht-	*clean with it*
-yʌtho-	*plant*	-yʌthoht-	*plant with it*
-hyatu-	*write*	-hyatuhkw-	*write with it*
-uni-	*make*	-unyaʔt-	*make out of it*

Sometimes the -hkw- form of the instrumental doubles with one of the others to form -htahkw-, -ʔtahkw-, or -stahkw-.   These usually refer to specific tools.

The instrumental suffix provides a common way of turning verbs into corresponding nouns either with a generic subject or in some cases with no pronoun prefix at all.

Some examples:

teyelihwahkwá·tha?	*hymnal (one sings with it)*
yehyatúkhwa?	*writing tool (one writes with it)*
yehwistayʌtákhwa?	*bank (one has money there)*
teyutawʌlyétha?	*travelling place (one travels there)*
yekhunyá·tha?	*kitchen (one cooks with it)*
yehnekihlá·tha?	*dipper (one uses it to drink with)*
kahʌtiyostákhwa?	*fertilizer (the field is good with it)*

In some ways this use of the instrumental is like the English suffix -er in *planter,* *mixer,* or *computer.*

Causative

Quite a few roots can be extended with a suffix which is identical in form to the instrumental suffix but has a meaning of *to cause* or *make happen.* Here are some common examples:

-iyo	*good*	-iyost-	*make good*
-wʌniyo-	*good word*	-wʌniyost-	*praise*
-atla?swiyo-	*good luck*	-atla?swiyost-	*wish good luck*
-a?talihʌ-	*warm, hot*	-?taliha?t-	*heat*
-owanʌ	*big*	-owanaht-	*enlarge*
-hsʌnowanʌ	*reputation*	-hsʌnowanaht-	*respect, honor*
-hetkʌ	*ugly*	-hetkʌht-	*spoil, ruin*
-na?khwʌ	*mad*	-atna?khwaht-	*get oneself mad*
-ahtʌty-	*leave, go*	-ahtʌtyaht-	*make it go*
-ye-	*wake up*	-yeht-	*wake one up*
-atek-	*burn*	-ateka?t-	*make it burn*
-ate?kw-	*run away*	-ate?kwaht-	*chase away*
-at-	*be in*	-ata?-	*put in*
-hli-	*fragile*	-hliht-	*break (requires a dualic)*
-atawʌ-	*swim*	-atawʌst-	*give one a bath*

Some examples:

satahuhsi·yóst	*listen up! (make your ears good)*
satla?swiyóhake	*good luck!*
washakohsʌnowa·náhte?	*he honored her*

PLURALS

In English the distinction between singluar and plural is very basic and the language forces the distinction on its speakers. In Oneida the distinction is less basic. The word **ká·sleht** could mean *cars* as easily as *car*. Of course when a speaker wants to be specific the language has ways of expressing number, in fact, many ways. One can use special plural suffixes on noun roots and certain verb roots, plural pronoun prefixes in verbs, or a root suffix known as the distributive.

Noun suffixes

The two suffixes **-shúha?** and **-(h)okúha?** are attached to some noun roots to indicate plural. The choice is generally determined by the particular noun root although on some noun roots either is possible and on others neither is possible.

áhta?	*shoe*	ahta?shúha?	*shoes*
onúhkwat	*medicine*	onuhkwathokúha?	*medicines*
owʌ·ná·	*word*	owʌna?shúha?	*words*

Adjective suffixes

Some of the verb roots that translate as adjectives in English have a plural suffix **-?se?** as in the following:

-owa·nʌ́·se?	*big ones*
-i·yó·se?	*good ones*

Examples:

kanuhsowa·nʌ́·se?	*big houses*
kalʌni·yó·se?	*good songs*

The verb root for *little* also has a special plural form:

-á·sa	*little ones*

For example:

ka? nikawʌná·sa	*little words*

Distributive

The distributive is one of the root suffixes that can occur at the end of a complex verb stem before the aspect suffixes. The distributive has a number of forms **-hslu-**, **-nyu-**, **-hu-**, **-tu-**, and **-u-**. There are also combined forms **-hslunyu-**, **-hunyu-**, **-tunyu-**, and **-unyu-**. The choice among these is a matter of selection by the verb root. The meaning this suffix adds is that the action takes place at various places (distributed in space), to various things (plural), or at various times (distributed in time). The aspect suffixes that follow a distributive are:

serial	-he?
punctual	-?
imperative	
perfective	-?

Here are some examples of how adding a distributive suffix changes the meaning of a stem:

-thal-	*talk, converse*
-thalunyu-	*talk it over, talk about it*
-aluʔtat-	*shoot*
-aluʔtathu-	*shoot here and there*
-kalatu-	*tell a story*
-kalatunyu-	*tell stories*
-atyel-	*do something*
-atyelanyu-	*do things*
-atlʌnot-	*play music*
-atlʌnotunyu-	*play various music*
-nuhsot-	*a house standing*
-nuhsotu-	*houses standing*

Some examples:

kanuhso·tú	*houses*
lotlʌnotúni	*he's playing various music*
nihatyelányuheʔ	*what things he does*
yekalatúnyuheʔ	*she tells stories*
lotíthaleʔ	*they are talking*
lotithalúni	*they are talking it over*
wahalú·tateʔ	*he shot*
wahaluʔtáthuʔ	*he shot here and there*

Plural Pronoun prefixes

Another way to indicate grammatical number is not on the noun but on the pronoun prefix that agrees with it in the verb. Where in English you might say *The birds are singing*, in Oneida it might be closer to *They are singing, (that is) bird.* **Tehotilihwáhkwʌ (né·n) otsiʔtʌ́ha.** An Oneida speaker knows we are talking about several birds, not by any suffix on *bird* but by the -hoti- prefix in the verb. Oneida, in fact, has a much richer system for indicating number with pronoun prefixes than English does with its pronouns.

Often in Oneida there is a three way distinction of number. Instead of just the singular and plural that English has, Oneida has a singular, a dual for pairs of objects, and a

plural for collections of three or more. Here are some of the additional subjective pronoun prefixes:

you

you two	**sni-**	for c-stems	
	tsya-	for a-stems	
you all	**swa-**		

they

they two	**(h)ni-**	for c-stems	(indicates at least one male)
they two	**(h)ya-**	for a-stems	(indicates at least one male)
they two	**kni-**	for c-stems	(indicates both females)
they two	**kya-**	for a-stems	(indicates both females)

(note: the -**h**- in parentheses is present as long as it is not the beginning of the word)

they all	**lati-**	for c-stems	(indicates at least one male)
they all	**lu-**	for a-stems	(indicates at least one male)
they all	**kuti-**	for c-stems	(indicates all females)
they all	**ku-**	for a-stems	(indicates all females)

we

we two	**tni-**	for c-stems	(indicates just you and me)
we two	**tya-**	for a-stems	(indicates just you and me)
we two	**yakni-**	for c-stems	(indicates me and someone else)
we two	**yakya-**	for a-stems	(indicates me and someone else)

we all	**twa-**	(indicates you are included)
we all	**yakwa-**	(indicates you are excluded)

For the objective pronoun prefixes:

The objective prefixes for *you* are exactly the same as the subjective ones above.

The objective prefixes for *they* do not make a distinction between pairs and larger collections.

they	**loti-**	for c-stems (at least one male)
	lon-	for a-stems (at least one male)
	yoti-	for c-stems (all females)
	yon-	for a-stems (all females)

The prefixes for *we* do not make a distinction between including and excluding you.

we two	**yukni-**	for c-stems
	yukya-	for a-stems
we all	**yukwa-**	for all stems

Some examples:
    Subjective a-stems:

tsyatekhu·ní<u>he</u>	*you two are eating*
swatekhu·ní<u>he</u>	*you all are eating*
yatekhu·ní<u>he</u>	*the two of them are eating*
kyatekhu·ní<u>he</u>	*the two women are eating*
lutekhu·ní<u>he</u>	*they are eating* (at least three)
kutekhu·ní<u>he</u>	*the women are eating* (at least three)
yakyatekhu·ní<u>he</u>	*we two (someone else and I) are eating*
tyatekhu·ní<u>he</u>	*we two (you and I) are eating*
yakwatekhu·ní<u>he</u>	*we are eating* (at least three of us but not you)
twatekhu·ní<u>he</u>	*we all are eating* (including you)
yato·láts	*they two are hunting*
luto·láts	*they all are hunting*
twato·láts	*we all are hunting*
tehyatekháhsyus	*they are divorcing*
tetyatekháhsyus	*we (you and I) are divorcing*
teyakyatekháhsyus	*we (my spouse and I) are divorcing*

    subjective c-stems:

sniwʌni·sáks	*you are both looking for words*
kniwʌni·sáks	*the two women are looking for words*
tniwʌni·sáks	*you and are looking for words*
yakniwʌni·sáks	*we two (but not you) are looking for words*
niwʌni·sáks	*the two of them are looking for words*
latiwʌni·sáks	*they all are looking for words*
kutiwʌni·sáks	*the women are looking for words*
yakwawʌni·sáks	*we all (but not you) are looking for words*
twawʌni·sáks	*we all (including you) are looking for words*
tehnikháhsyus	*they two are separating it*
tesnikháhsyus	*you two are separating it*
kutiyʌ́thos	*the women are planting*
tniyʌ́thos	*you and I and planting (just the two of us)*
twayʌ́thos	*all of us are planting (including you)*

objective a-stems:

tsyanúhte	*you both know*
swanúhte	*you all know*
lonanúhte	*they know*
yonanúhte	*the women know*
yukyanúhte	*we two know*
yukwanúhte	*we all know*
yukwatunháhele?	*we are all happy*
yonatunháhele?	*the women are happy*
tsyatunháhele?	*you both are happy*

objective c-stems

snihwístayʌ	*you two have money*
yotihwístayʌ	*the women have money*
lotihwístayʌ	*they have money*
yuknihwístayʌ	*the two of them have money*
yukwahwístayʌ	*we all have money*
tehotilihwáhkwʌ	*they are singing*
teyotilihwáhkwʌ	*they (females) are singing*
teyuknilihwáhkwʌ	*we both are singing*

PROGRESSIVE

There is a special verb suffix that means someone is going along doing the action of the verb. Motion and continuity are both part of the meaning. The form of the suffix is -hatye- although on some verbs it shortens to -atye- or even to -tye-. This suffix attaches to the perfective aspect suffix to form a new complex stem and then additional aspect suffixes can be added:

-hátyehse?	serial	*go along doing*
-hátye?	punctual	*went (will go, should go) along doing*
-hátye	imperative	*go along doing!*
-hátye?	perfective	*going along doing*

The whispered form of -hátye? is -háti and is so common it often replaces the context form even when other words follow.

Some examples:

teyukwatewʌlyeháti   *we are travelling along*
(te- dualic; yukw- pronoun; -ate- reflexive; -wʌlye- verb; -hati progressive)

tetwatewʌlyehátyehse?   *we travel along*
(te- dualic; twa- pronoun; -ate- reflexive; -wʌlye- verb; -hatye- progressive; -hse? serial)

tʌtwatewʌlyeháti   *we will be travelling along*
(t- dualic; -ʌ- future; -twa- pronoun; -ate- reflexive; -wʌlye- verb; -hati progressive)

lotiyʌthuháti   *they are planting along*
(loti- pronoun; -yʌtho- verb; -u- perfective; -hati progressive)

yukwatekhuniháti   *we are going along eating*
(yukwa- pronoun; -atekhuni- verb; -hati progressive)

teyotilihwahkwʌ́ti   *they (females) are singing along*
(te- dualic; -yoti- pronoun; -lihwahkw- verb; -ʌ- perfective; -ti progressive)

CONVERSATIONAL VOCABULARY

Sports vocabulary

tatsye·ná	*catch it!* (said by thrower)
ka?shʌni·yó	*good shot, good aim*
skú·lek	*hit it!*
taskú·lek	*hit it here!*
é·nike yaskú·lek	*hit it high!*

salahsʌtho	*kick it!*
tahsalahsʌtho	*kick it here!*
yahsalahsʌtho	*kick it there!*
taskalhatényat	*roll it here!* (said by kicker)
yaskalhatényat	*roll it there!* (said by others)
tehsaláhtat	*run!*
o·nʌ́	*now! (go!)*
satnúhtut	*wait up! stay!*
yasahkwíshe	*go for it!*
yasa·tí	*throw it there!*
tasa·tí	*throw it here!*

taswá·ek	*hit it here!* (with a bat or racquet)
yaswá·ek	*hit it away!*
selhó·lok	*trap it! (cover it!)*
etsehkwe	*take it away from him!*

átste yotukóhtu	*out of bounds, it's gone out*
yoyánehle	*it's good, (in bounds)*
wa?eyó·tat	*interference*
uthya·tú	*score (it scored)*
yah teyothya·tu	*no score*
yah té·kale	*no fair, illegal move*
takaha·láne	*it's hung up* (ball in a tree)
ná·ku utu·kóhte	*it went underneath*

í· akwa·wʌ́	*it's mine; I've got it*
i·sé sa·wʌ́	*it's yours*
i·sé nu?ú	*your turn*
úhka? náhte? yehʌ·tú	*who's ahead?*
twatolíshʌ	*time out! (let's rest)*

ahtá·nawʌ	*ball*
yekú·leks ahtá·nawʌ	*volleyball*
lanúnha	*goalie (he guards it)*
lanúnha? lao·wʌ́	*it's goalie's (ball)*

Questions

náhte?	*what*
náhohte	*what?* (said by itself)
náhte? né· thi·kʌ́	what is that?
úhka? náhte?	*who*
úhka? náhohte	*who?* (said by itself)
úhka? náhte? né· thi·kʌ́	who is that?
kátsa? nu	*where*
to nikaha·wí	*what time*
to niyohwistá·e	*what time is it?*
kánhke nu	*when?*
náhte? aolí·wa	*why; what is the reason*
to ni·kú	*how much; how many?* (said of objects)
to niha·tí	*how many (people)*
to niku·tí	*how many (females)*
katsa? ka·yʌ́	*which one*