

Structure of the Dictionary Entries

Each Oneida citation form in this dictionary is identified in one of eight categories: verb stem, noun root, derived noun, stative, single word, particle, name, or prefix. Hyphens around a citation form mean that form is a root or stem, not a complete word. The entry contains examples of the prefixes and suffixes needed to turn that root or stem into a full word. The first line after the citation form contains an abbreviation of the category, a variation code, and a set of English glosses. Additional information on subsequent lines depends on the category.

Verb stem

Entries for verb stems include a line of analysis that identifies the internal pieces of the verb stem. Certain of these pieces can be looked up separately (use a root search) while others are identified only by an abbreviation for a grammatical label such as reflexive, causative, or distributive. Still others may be unknown and are represented by a question mark. Stem joining vowels are omitted in this analysis. Following this analysis are example full words based on the verb stem with specific English translations. In a full paradigm these words will include a serial (habitual) form, a punctual form with an aorist (factual) prefix, a perfective (stative) form, and perhaps a command form or some specialized form. At the end of the entry there may be remarks about the use of prefixes or semantic specialization.

Stative (verb)

Most verb stems have a stative (perfective) form to signal that the action of the verb either has been done or is currently ongoing. There are, however, many verbs that have only a stative form. They require special modification to turn them into fully productive regular verb stems. Such verb stems are cited in a separate category. Many of them correspond to descriptive adjectives in English. After the general glosses and a constituent analysis of the verb stem, a full word example is given, typically in isolation form (with whispered ending). The translation of that word is fairly faithful to the internal structure of the word and thus is more literal than the freer glosses. At the end of the entry there may be an additional usage note.

Noun root

The citation form is the context form of the noun as a full word (noun root plus any required prefix and suffix). A line within the entry lists the full word form in both its context form (without whispering) and its isolation form (with whispering) if it is different. There follows a translation for the word. Most of the time this is the same as the glosses given for the root, but at times there is a semantic specialization for the full word. There are then several examples of how the noun root can be used, for example, in locative, plural, possessive, or counting expressions. An incorporation form of the noun root is also given, especially if it is different from the noun root itself. At the end of the entry are any special usage remarks.

Derived Noun

The citation form for the derived nouns is the full word in its context form (without whispering). The entry includes glosses, a breakdown of the verb stem into its component parts, and then the isolation form of the word. The translation given here is a rather literal one meant to show the word's internal structure. The glosses provide a freer translation.

Single word (noun)

Some nouns occur only in a form with no obvious internal structure. Because they are clearly used as nouns, they are not listed as particles but rather put in a separate category labeled single word. The citation form is the full word. Just a gloss is given.

Name

Native Oneida names are typically structured like other Oneida verbs and nouns and can often be translated. No attempt has been made to collect those words that specifically double as names for this dictionary. Personal names adapted from English and a variety of (often local) place names are included with a simple gloss.

Particle

Particles or combinations of particles that have a distinctive meaning are given separate citations. Glosses are given sometimes along with a brief usage note. Some of the particles express a grammatical, emphatic or discourse meaning and in such cases no simple gloss can be given.

Prefixes

The forms of the pronoun prefixes are entered as citation forms. The glosses indicate person, gender, number, and case (subjective such as *I*, *he*, *she* or objective such as *me*, *him*, *her*). Transitive pronoun prefixes indicate both subject and object, so, for example, a pronoun that signals *she* is the subject of the action and *he* is the object receiving the action would be glossed as *she to him*. Since there are many sets of such pronoun prefixes each compatible with different kinds of verb stems, a base form of the pronoun prefix is given and a usage note on the compatibilities. Much of this is determined by the beginning sound of the verb stem.

All the combinations of the pre-pronominal prefixes attached before the pronoun prefixes are also listed as citation forms. Sometimes these meld into the pronoun prefixes. Glosses for these are not given since their meanings are so dependent on the particular verb stem they are attached to, but the internal parts of complex combinations are identified by their technical labels. See the grammar for more explanation.