

Suppose you want to look up the Oneida word **wa'katekhu-ní**. There is not an exact match but you can find information from looking up the citation form, which is a verb stem, a part of the word:

prefix		stem		suffix
<b>wa'k-</b>	+	<b>-atekhuni-</b>	+	<b>-ʔ</b>
past tense		<i>I eat a meal</i>		<i>did</i>

The stem **-atekhuni-** is made up of a grammatical affix and two roots:

**-ate-** + **-khw-** + **-uni-**  
(reflexive) (food) (make)

[Notice that the basic parts of the word can be modified when they are combined. In this case the **w** in the root **-khw-** is lost before any root beginning with a **u** or **o** and the glottal stop suffix is lost when the accent rules stress a vowel right before it. These are examples of the modification rules.]

There are three ways to look up this word.

- If you know it means something about eating, you can search on the English *eat*.
- If you recognize any of the roots in the word, you can search on those roots (**-khw-** or **-uni-**) to find the verb stem (the citation form).
- If you don't know anything about the word, you can use the tools to separate the stem from the prefixes and suffixes and then search for that stem (**-atekhuni-**).