

Lesson of The Day

i = my -nasal form, prefixed before words that begin with a consonant.

im = my -m form, prefixed before words that begin with a vowel.

In the Choctaw language, there is no word for his, hers or its. This is called an unmarked subject. A conversation can begin with a named person but thereafter it will be understood who you are talking about in the context of the conversation. Additionally, rather than saying the name over and over, the person will be referred to as: this one who, that one who, this is the one that, or that is the one that, etc.

Betheny ishki chia ho?

Are you Betheny's mother?

Ishki yvt chi ho^opona chi.

His/Her mother will cook for you.

Word Meaning:

ishki (ish-ki) = his/her mother **yvt** (yaht) = subject marker

chia (chi-ya) = you are/are you? **ho** (h^onh) = question marker

chi (ch^enh) = him/her **achi** (ah-ch^enh) = future tense

hoponi (ho-po-ni) = to cook (changed to **ho^opona** for future tense)

Base words for kinship terms:

h^ushki = mother **nakfi** = brother **pokni** = grandmother

iki = father **i tek** = sister **mafo** = grandfather