

The Introduction presents a number of commands, some questions, and a negative statement. The Introduction provides language for starting class, for language class management, and for greetings.

### Commands

Commands in Cherokee are formed on the Immediate Stem. If we look at the five stem structure of the verb *pray*, the Immediate Stem is the shortest stem in bold below.

Adadolisdiha.	He is praying.	pray Present Stem
Gadadolisdisgoi.	I pray.	pray Imperfective Stem
<b>Hadadolisda.</b>	Pray.	pray Immediate Stem
Udadolisdanvi.	She prayed.	pray Perfective Stem
udadolisdohdi	for him to pray	pray Infinitive Stem

The Immediate Stem is the shortest stem for the verb *begin* and *say*, too. Use the Immediate Stem to give a command to a Second Person, you, you two, or you all.

Hadadolisda. Pray.  
Sdadadolisda. You two pray.  
Itsdadadolisda. You all pray.

Only the Person marker changes in the *pray* commands above. Only the Person marker changes in the *say* commands below.

Hniwi. Say it.  
Nisdiwi. You two say it.  
Nitsiwi. You all say it.

When an Immediate Command includes a First Person, I, we two, or we all, it can be translated as *Let's ...* in English. For *pray*, *say*, and *begin*, we can use the First Person Inclusive (including you) Plural Person marker *id-* and the Immediate Stem for an inclusive *Let's ...* suggestion.

Idadadolisda. Let's (me, you, and others) pray.  
Nidiwi. Let's (me, you, and others) say it.  
Idalena. Let's (me, you, and others) begin.

When a word begins with an *i-* "ee" sound in Cherokee, you will often hear an *hi-* "hee" pronunciation and you will often see a *hi-* spelling.

Hidadadolisda. Let's (me, you, and others) pray.  
Hidalena. Let's (me, you, and others) begin.

These are sound variants of the forms above and indicate no meaningful difference beyond speaker dialect.

The Immediate Stem also functions as a component of a Past. Use the Immediate Stem in combination with Person markers to create Immediate Past statements and questions.

Hadadolisdatsu?      Did you pray?  
Vv, gadadolisda.      Yes, I prayed.

The verb *help* is a Transitive verb, meaning action moves from one group of Person to another group of Person. Transitive verbs in Cherokee language that involve two groups of Person require their own Person markers. The Person marker *sgi-* indicates action from you (one Person group) to me (the other Person group).

Sgisdela.      Help me.

Again, *-sdela help Immediate Stem* is the shortest stem of the five stems for this verb.

Gvsdeliha.	I am helping you.	help Present Stem
Agisdelisgoi	She helps me.	help Imperfective Stem
Hisdela.	Help him.	help Immediate Stem
Usdelvhvi.	He helped her.	help Perfective Stem
tsisdehldi	for me to help him	help Infinitive Stem

Yes/No Questions can be formed by adding the Question marker *-tsu* to the end of the first word or phrase of the question. Compare the statement and the question below.

Osigwo.      I'm fine.  
Osigwotsu?      Are you fine?

Literally, the forms above do not have Person markers, but in polite conversation they are understood to refer to the First Person, I, and the Second Person, you.

In addition to yes/no questions, languages, including Cherokee language, have some mechanism for asking for additional information. In Cherokee, the principal means is some form of the Information Question marker *do*, often translated as *what*.

Do adadi \_\_\_\_?      How do you say \_\_\_\_?  
Do anadisgo?      What do they say?

The Negative Statement in Cherokee language can be quite complex. The Negative Statement begins with the Negative Statement marker *gesdi* and requires either a *y-* Conditional marked verb or a *yigi* Conditional copula if there is no verb in the Negative Statement. *Good* and its variants are Adjectives in Cherokee, not Verbs, so negative value statements with *good* require *yigi* Conditional copula.

Gesdi osda yigi.      It's not good. (or in context, I'm not well.)

**Intro:**

You pray.	Hadadolisda.	ቶሊሆጦ።
Let's pray.	Hidadadolisda.	ጳሊሆጦ።
Let's begin.	Hidalena.	ጳሊሮ።
Say it.	Hniwi.	ከፀ.
Everyone say it.	Nitsiwi.	ከከፀ.
You say it again.	Tsihniwi.	ከከፀ.
Again.	Siquo.	ፊኑ።
Everyone say it again.	Tsinitsiwi.	ከከከፀ.
Everyone.	Nigada.	ከፍ።
Hello, how are you?	Siyo, osiquotsu?	ፊፍ, ጳፊኑፎ?
I'm fine,	Osiquo,	ጳፊኑ,
and how are you?	nihina?	ከፀፀ?
Good.	Osda.	ጳጦ።
Excellent.	Hayolada.	ቶፍወ።
I'm not good.	Gesdi osda yigi.	ፑጦ፤ ጳጦ። ጳሃ.
How do you say?	Doadadi?	ቫሊ፤?
Help me.	Sgisdela.	ጳሃጳፍወ.