

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.

Imafo pisa li tuk.

I saw his/her grandfather.

Clint imafo yvt bilika vta.

Clint's grandfather lives near him.

Word Meaning:

imafo (ehm-a-fo) = his/her grandfather **yvt** (yaht) = subject marker

pisa (pⁱn-sa) = to see; to look **li** (le) = I **tuk** (tuk) = past tense

bilika (bi-lⁱhn-ka) = near **vta** (aht-ta) = live/stay/reside

Base words for kinship terms:

hushki = mother **nakfi** = brother **pokni** = grandmother

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