

## Building Longer Sentences



In this unit you'll learn another way to say "with", and you'll learn how to refer to events that happened long ago. You'll also learn new switch-reference endings and how to say "bring", "take", and "begin". The unit includes an Advanced Chickasaw Grammar section.

Lesson 13.1 introduces the **isht±** "with" preverb, a new type of prefix that works differently from the other prefixes you have learned. Lesson 13.2 presents the **±ttook** remote past ending. The **±kat** and **±ka** switch-reference endings are introduced in lesson 13.3. Lesson 13.4 shows how to say "bring" and "take" with **isht±** and a motion verb. Lessons 13.5 and 13.6 present t- verbs and their use with **ishtaya** "begin". The Advanced Chickasaw Grammar lesson introduces some new types of negative sentences with **ki'yo**.

### Lesson 13.1: The **isht±** "with" Prefix

In unit 10 you learned to use the **ibaa±** prefix on verbs to say "along with". Another prefix, **isht±**, means "with" in the sense of "by means of" or "using":

Hattakat ihoog tali' ishtissotok.

"The man hit the woman with a rock."

In this example, **tali'** "rock" is the INSTRUMENT with which the hitting was done. Though **isht±** and **ibaa±** both mean "with", if you think about the kind of "with" you want to express, you shouldn't have trouble deciding which prefix to use. If the sentence tells what object was used to accomplish the action, use **isht±**.

Adding **isht±** to a one-place verb like **impa** makes a new two-place verb; adding **isht±** to a two-place verb like **apa** makes a new three-place verb:

Chipotaat folosh ishtimpa'ni ki'yo.  
Chipotaat chofaka nipi' ishtapatok,  
Chipotaat nipi'a chofak ishtapatok.

"The child can't eat with a spoon."  
"The child ate the meat with a fork."

(**Chofak** is "fork".) Remember, when there are two object nouns in a Chickasaw sentence, the one that is not directly before the verb has the object ending **±a**. The two object nouns in such sentences can occur in either order, but the first one must have an object ending.

**Isht±** is a special type of prefix called a **PREVERB**. Preverbs work differently from other prefixes. They are always the first thing in their words, coming before all of the other prefixes you have learned, even A and N prefixes:

Bashpo ishtishbashaffitaam?  
Salbak ishtakí'shokitok.

"Did you cut it with a knife?"  
"I didn't take it with my hands."

Look at the examples—**isht±** comes first every time.

Another way in which preverbs like **isht±** are different from other prefixes is that the D prefix **a+** is unchanged after **isht±** (it does not become **sa+**, as it would after an A or N prefix), as in the following. (**Ishholissochi'** means "pen" or "pencil".)

Ishholissochi' ishtahholissochitok.

"He wrote to me with a pen."

Instrument object nouns used with **isht±** verbs work just like other objects. Here are three different ways to say "I hit the chief with a hammer" using the new word **naaishbo'wa'**:

Naaishbo'wa minko' ishtissolitok.  
Minka naaishbo'wa' ishtissolitok.  
Naaishbo'waako minko' ishtissolitok.

Can you think of other ways to say the same thing?

*Exercise 13A.* Add **isht±** to the verbs of the following Chickasaw sentences so that you can add the instrument objects in parentheses to the sentences. Don't forget to use the object ending **±a** in sentences with two object nouns. Translate the new sentences you make up.

*Example.* Chokaano abilitok. (holisso) (**chokaano** means "fly", and in this sentence, **holisso** could mean "newspaper")

*Answer.* Holissa chokaano ishtabilitok. "I killed the fly with a newspaper."

1. Hattak yamma issa'chi (itti'). 2. Chipotaat ishki' ihholissochi. (ishholissochi') 3. Ihoat ihhattak issotok. (**ishpiha'** = "broom") 4. Ishpihtaam? (ishpiha'); (**pihli** = "to sweep" (A,Noun)) 5. Hattakat ashiila apatok. (folosh); (**ashiila** = "stew"). 6. Alikchaat amofi' antakchi. (ishtalakchi') (**takchi** = to tie (A,S), used with a dative and D prefix) 7. Choklhan akhali'lokitok (anuitti') (**choklhan** = "spider") 8. Sashkaat chipota okaamichi. (oka')

In each of the examples you've seen so far, **isht±** comes before a vowel. When **isht±** comes before a consonant, here is what happens:

Ishpiha' ishpihtaam?  
Tali' ishchikissokitok.  
Shawi'a itti' ishhoobo'li.

"Did she sweep it with a broom?"  
"You didn't hit him with a rock."  
"They are hitting the raccoon with a stick."

(**Bo'li** means for one person "to hit more than once" or "to beat up" or for many people "to hit". **Shawi'** means "raccoon".) Before a consonant the "with" prefix is **ish±**, not **isht±**. When **isht±** comes before the **p** of the verb **pihli** in the first example, or the **ch** of the N prefix **chik±** in the second example, or the **h** of the **hoo±**