



Onöndowa'ga:' Gawë:nö'--Seneca (People of the Great Hill) Language
Community Class 2/11/2019
Instructor: **Ja:no's**--Janine Bowen

Part 1: Ganö:nyök Key Words

Use when opening...

Sga:d hēdwa:yë:' ögwa'nigöë'---one we will have, our mind

dēdwadahnö:nyö:'---we give thanks to each other

dēyetinö:nyö:'---we give thanks to her / them

dēdwanö:nyö:'---we give thanks to it

dēsēdwanö:nyö:'---we give thanks to him

Use when closing...

Da:h o:nēh sga'nigöë' sayagwayë' ëswe:he:k sayagwajënö:ni'---now are minds are
one again, we will think, we do it again respectfully

dēsāyagwadahnö:nyö'---we acknowledge each other again

dēsāyetinö:nyö'---we acknowledge each her/them again

dēsāyagwanö:nyö'---we acknowledge it again

dēsāsēdwanö:nyö'---we acknowledge him again

Use for opening and closing...

ha'deyögwe'dage:h---all of the people

etinö'ēh yöēdzade'---our Mother Earth

o:nēgitgēsö'---there are natural springs

o:negahdē:jö:h---flowing streams

ga:negada:nyö'---all that has water in it

ga:negowa:nē's---big waters

ha'deogyo'dza:ge:h---all of the grasses

ha'deyonöhgwa'shä:ge:h---all of the medicinal plants

ha'deyoji:yage:h---all of the fruits/berries

ojisdöda'shä'---strawberry

gahadayë'---forest

wahda'---maple tree

ha'deganyo'dage:h---all of the animals

ha'degaji'dage:h---all of the birds

ha'dewënödē:nö:de:' Johehgöh---Three Sisters, Our Life Sustainers

deyoä:wēnye:h---stirring wind, breeze

etihso:d hadiwēnodaje's---Our grandfathers the thunderers

Hi'nö'---Leader of the Thunderers



sedwahji' ë:de:kha:' gähgwa:'—Our Elder Brother, the daytime orb of light (sun)
etihso:d sõe:kha:' gähgwa:'--Our Grandmother the night-time orb of light (moon)
gajihsö'dëönyö'—there are stars in it (stars)
sedwagowanë:nö' Sganyodaiyo'—Our Great Leader Handsome Lake
ge:ih nyënödi:h Hadiöya'geönö'—Four Beings, Sky Dwellers
Sögwajënö'kda'öh—Our Creator

Da:h ne'hoh dih nëyöghwa'nigo'dë:ök---and so let it be that way in our minds

Part 2

Dë'ëh—What?

_____ **ni:s šya:söh**—you are called
 _____ **de'šya:söh**---you are not called
 _____ **yeya:söh**—she is called
 _____ **yeyasö:nö'**---she was called
 _____ **de'eyasöh**---she is not called

_____ **ni:' gya:söh**—I am called
 _____ **de'gya:söh**---I am not called
 _____ **haya:söh**—he is called
 _____ **hayasö:nö'**---he was called
 _____ **da:yasöh**---he is not called

ögwe'öwe:kha:'—Native way

ga:nyö'ökhka:'—non-Native/English way

Sö:h nä:h në:gë:h?—Who is this?

Sö:h nä:h higë:h?—Who is that?

yagö:gweh---woman
yagö:gwe'da:se:'---young woman
akno'ëh---my mother
hage'nih / ha'nih---my father
kea:wak---my daughter
hea:wak---my son
akso:d--my grandmother
hakso:d--my grandfather

hö:gweh---man
hö:gwe'dase:'---young man
sano'ëh---your mother
ya'nih---your father
shea:wak---your daughter
hehsa:wak---your son
sahso:d--your grandmother
yahso:d--your grandfather

-gëö'---added to the word for a person who is deceased (ex. **akso:d gëö'**)



jigwas---soon

ëyo:hë't--tomorrow

ësgö:ge'--I will see you again.

ëskni:gë'---I will see you two gain.

ësgwa:gë'--I will see all of you again.

Part 3

0--**da'gwisde'**---nothing

1--**sga:d**

2--**dekni:h**

3--**sëh**

4--**ge:ih**

5--**wis**

6--**ye:i'**

7--**dza:dak**

8--**degyö'**

9--**johdö:h**

10--**washë:h**

11--**sga:sgae'**

12--**dekni:sgae'**

13--**së:sgae'**

14--**ge:ih sgae'**

15--**wis sgae'**

16--**ye:i' sgae'**

17--**dza:dak sgae'**

18--**degyö' sgae'**

19--**johdö:h sgae'**

20--**dewashë:h**

30--**sëh niwashë:h**

40--**ge:ih niwashë:h**

50--**wis niwashë:h**

Do:h nigano:ö'?---How much does it cost?

Do:h nisa:wisda:yë'?---How much money do you have?

Do:h niwakwisda:yë'?---How much money do I have?

Do:h nio:wisda:yë'?---How much money does he have?

Do:h niyagowisda:yë'?---How much money does she have?

sga:wisda:d---\$1.00

dega:wisda:ge:h---\$2.00

___niga:wisda:ge:h---the amount of dollars

sgagwënishä:d---1 ¢

degagwënishä:ge:h---2 ¢

niga:gwënishä:ge:h---amount of cents



gano:ö'---It's expensive, difficult. **waje:sëh**--- It's cheap.

Ogwe:nyö:h...?---It is possible...?

ëgata'dö:' ---I will borrow

ësata'dö:'---you will borrow

ëöta'dö:'---he will borrow

ëyöta'dö:'---she will borrow

Part 4

Do: niyoisda:'e:h? How many times has it struck metal / What time is it?

niyonö'sgä:ge:h notches / minutes

niyoisda:'e:h number of strikes on metal / hour

heyoähdöh after

nejono:ö' before / lacking

ha'dewahsë:nöh half past

ha'dewë:nishë:h midday / noon

ha'dewahsö:twëh midnight

Part 5

nya:wëh sgë:nö'—I am thankful you are well.

hae'—hello / hi

sgë:nö' nä:h?—Are you well?

Ë:h—yes

a:yë:' nä:h---it seems that way

I:s dih?---You, then?

hë'ëh—no

ha'degaye:i'---good enough

gadögweta'—I feel well

de'gadögwe:ta'—I do not feel well.

sadögweta'---you feel well.

de'sadögwe:ta'---you do not feel well.

yödögweta'---she feels well.

de'ödögwe:ta'---She does not feel well.

hadögweta'---He feels well.

da:dögwe:ta'---He does not feel well.

agatsëhdöh---I am tired.

satsëhdöh---You are tired.

gotsëhdöh---She is tired.

hotsëhdöh---He is tired.

aknö:kda:nih---I am sick.

sanö:kda:nih---You are sick.



gonö:kda:nih---She is sick.

honö:kda:nih---He is sick.

Part 6

Dë'ëh niyoje:ëh asdeh?---What is happening outside?

Dë'ëh niwënišyo'dë:nö'?---What kind of day was it?

Dë'ëh niwënišyo'dë:ök?---What kind of day will it be?

osdëö:jö:h---it is raining

ëyosdëö:di'---it will rain

wa'osdëö:di'---it rained

o'gyö:jö:h---it is snowing

ëyo'gyö:di'---it will snow

wa'ogyö:di'---it snowed

otho:we'---it is cold

ëwötho:wä:t---it will get cold

o'watho:wä:t---it got cold

one:nö'---it is warm

ëgane:nö:'---it will get warm

o'gane:nö:'---it got warm

odë:hgo:d---it is sunny

ëwodë:hgo:dë'---it will be sunny

o'wahdëhgo:dë'---it was sunny

gä:ha'---wind is blowing

dëgä:wë:nye:'---wind will stir

o'gä:ë'---wind blew

ohji'ge'---it is cloudy

koh---also

Part 7

yekönya'ta'geh---kitchen

adogwa'shä'---spoon

gadze'---plate/dish

gahsigwä:'---fork

gaganya'shä'---knife

ga:wisda'---cup

deyohso:d---bowl

deyowisä:te'---drinking glass

ganö'dza'---kettle/pot

dasgöh---Hand it to me.

dasha:h---Bring it here.

ho'se:goh---Go and get it.

në:gë:h---this

higë:h---that

neh---the

hae'gwah---also

deyosait---pepper

ojike'da'---salt

owisä:ta'---butter



owä:nö'---sugar

onö'gwa'---milk

sadöswe'da:nih--You are hungry

agadöswe'da:nih--I am hungry

godöswe'da:nih---She is hungry

hodöswe'da:nih---He is hungry

saga'has--you like the taste of it

agega'has--I like the taste of it

goga'has---She likes the taste of it.

hoga'has---He likes the taste of it

de'saga'has--You do not like the taste of it?

da'agega'has--I do not like the taste if it

de'goga'has---She does not like the taste of it.

do:ga'has---he does not like the taste of it

oga'öh--It tastes good.

de'oga'öh--It does not taste good.

ëhse:k--you will eat it.

ëge:k--I will eat it.

ëye:k---She will eat it.

ëök---He will eat it.

gaihdo'ya'ka:' dega:hgwa'se:'--Italian pie (pizza)

ono:hgwa'--corn soup

osae'da'---bean

onëö'--corn

o'wa:'---meat

ga:nya'o:ya'--apple

gaha'ta'---cheese

oähgwa'---bread

onönö'da'---potato

ojisgwanö:h---ice cream

o'höhsa'---egg

Part 8

gya'di:h---me

šya'di:h---you

yeya'di:h---she

haya'di:h---he

dehnyashe:h---you & I

desnyashe:h---you two

deniyashe:h---two males

deknyashe:h---two females

deyaknyashe:h---someone & I

dwagwe:göh---you all & I

agwagwe:göh---they & I

swagwe:göh---all of you

hadigwe:göh---they, 3 or more males, OR a mixed group of males and females

wadigwe:göh---they, 3 or more females

gaya'di:h---it

Part 9



knöe's---I like it

snöe's---You like it.

yenöe's---She likes it.

hanöe's---He likes it.

hninöe's---You and I like it.

sninöe's---You two like it.

hinöe's---Two males like it.

kninöe's---Two females like it.

akninöe's---Somenone and I like it.

dwanöe's---You all and I, we like it.

hadinöe's---They like it, 3 or males or a mixed group.

wadinöe's---They like it, 3 or more females.

agwanöe's---They and I like it.

swanöe's---All of you like it.

Part 10

ajadawi'shä'---shirt, dress, or coat

ahdahgwa'---shoe(s)

onö'gö:kha:' ahšyönyashä'---under clothes

gaya:a'---bag

gatgwë'da'---purse, pouch

gayahdowe'shä'---pants

adahdi'shä'---sock(s)

atwahashä'---belt

ga'ka:a'---skirt

wi:yo:h---It's good. **waetgëh**---It's bad, ugly.



Part 11

A stem

-adöswe'da:nih/-adöswe'dani:h/-ádöswe'dë'

hungry

	Command Do it!	Habitual I do it / I'm doing it	Perfective I have done it / had done it / am doing it
I		gádöswe'da:nih	agádöswe'danih
you	sádöswe'danih	sádöswe'danih	sádöswe'dani:h
he		hadöswe'da:nih	hodöswe'da:ni:h
she		yödöswe'da:nih	godöswe'da:ni:h
it		wadöswe'da:nih	odöswe'da:ni:h
you & I		jadöswe'da:nih	ögyádöswe'dani:h
s.o. & I		agyádöswe'danih	agyádöswe'dani:h
you two	snyádöswe'da:nih	snyádöswe'da:nih	snyádöswe'da:ni:h
two Ms		yadöswe'da:nih	honödöswe'dani:h
two Fs		gyadöswe'da:nih	onödöswe'dani:h
you all & I		dwadöswe'da:nih	ögwádöswe'dani:h
they & I		agwádöswe'danih	agwádöswe'dani:h
you all	swadöswe'da:nih	swadöswe'da:nih	swadöswe'da:ni:h
they Ms		hëñödöswe'danih	honödöswe'dani:h
they Fs		wëñödöswe'danih	onödöswe'dani:h
	Definite I did it	Conditional I could/should/would/might do it	Future I will do it
I	o'gádöswe'dë'	a:gádöswe'dë'	ëgádöswe'dë'
you	o'sadöswe'dë'	a:sádöswe'dë'	ësadöswe'dë'
he	wá:döswe'dë'	a:döswe'dë'	éödöswe'dë'
she	wa'ödöswe'dë'	a:yödöswe'dë'	ëyödöswe'dë'
it	o'wadöswe'dë'	a:wadöswe'dë'	ëwadöswe'dë'
you & I	ejadöswe'dë'	a:jadöswe'dë'	ëjadöswe'dë'
s.o. & I	wa'agyádöswe'dë'	a:yagyádöswe'dë'	ëyagyádöswe'dë'
you two	esnyádöswe'dë'	a:esnyádöswe'dë'	ësnyádöswe'dë'
two Ms	wa:yadöswe'dë'	a:yadöswe'dë'	ëyagwadöswe'dë'
two Fs	o'gyádöswe'dë'	a:gyadöswe'dë'	ëdwádöswe'dë'
you all & I	edwadöswe'dë'	a:edwadöswe'dë'	ëgyádöswe'dë'
they & I	wa'agwádöswe'dë'	a:yagwádöswe'dë'	ë:yagwadöswe'dë'
you all	eswadöswe'dë'	a:eswadöswe'dë'	ëswádöswe'dë'
they Ms	wë:ñödöswe'dë'	a:ëñödöswe'dë'	ë:ñödöswe'dë'
they Fs	o'wëñödöswe'dë'	a:wëñödöswe'dë'	ëwëñödöswe'dë'

**Chart provided by the Seneca Nation Immersion Department



Part 12

A stem

-jä:'dáhgwä'/-jä:'dahgöh/-jä:'dak

use something

	Command Do it!	Habitual I do it / I'm doing it	Perfective I have done it / had done it / am doing it
I		gajä'dáhgwä'	agajä'dahgöh
you	sajä'dak	sajä'dahgwä'	sajä'dahgöh
he		hajä'dáhgwä'	hojä'dáhgöh
she		yöjä'dáhgwä'	gojä'dáhgöh
it		wajä'dáhgwä'	ojä'dáhgöh
you & I		hnyajä'dáhgwä'	ögyajä'dahgöh
s.o. & I		agyajä'dahgwä'	ögyajä'dahgöh
you two	snyajä'dak	snyajä'dáhgwä'	snyajä'dahgöh
two Ms		yajä'dáhgwä'	honöjä'dahgöh
two Fs		gyajä'dáhgwä'	onöjä'dahgöh
you all & I		dwajä'dáhgwä'	ögwajä'dahgöh
they & I		agwajä'dahgwä'	ögwajä'dahgöh
you all	swajä'dak	swajä'dáhgwä'	swajä'dahgöh
they Ms		hönöjä'dahgwä'	honöjä'dahgöh
they Fs		wönöjä'dahgwä'	onöjä'dahgöh
	Definite I did it	Conditional I could/should/would/might do it	Future I will do it
I	o'gajä'dak	a:gajä'dak	ëgajä'dak
you	o'sajä'dak	a:sajä'dak	ësa:jä'dak
he	wa:jä'dak	a:jä'dak	ëöjä'dak
she	wa'öjä'dak	a:yöjä'dak	ëyöjä'dak
it	o'wajä'dak	a:wajä'dak	ëwöjä'dak
you & I	ejajä'dak	a:jajä'dak	ëjjajä'dak
s.o. & I	wa'agyajä'dak	a:yagyajä'dak	ëyagyajä'dak
you two	esnyajä'dak	aesnyajä'dak	ësnyajä'dak
two Ms	wa:yajä'dak	a:yajä'dak	ë:yajä'dak
two Fs	o'gyajä'dak	a:gyajä'dak	ëgyajä'dak
you all & I	edwajä'dak	aedwajä'dak	ëdwajä'dak
they & I	wa'agwajä'dak	a:yagwajä'dak	ëyagwajä'dak
you all	eswajä'dak	aeswajä'dak	ëswajä'dak
they Ms	wë:nöjä'dak	aë:nöjä'dak	ë:nöjä'dak
they Fs	o'wönöjä'dak	a:wönöjä'dak	ëwönöjä'dak

**Chart provided by the Seneca Nation Immersion Department



Part 13

Nya:wëh sgë:nö'.

(I am thankful you are well.)

Ja:no's ni:' gya:söh.

(Ja:no's, me, I am called.)

Onöndowa'ga:' ni:' ah.

(Seneca--People of the Great Hill, I am.)

Agegë'ge:ga:' hae'gwah.

(I am of the Beaver Clan, also.)

I:' tknöge' hëö:weh neh Ohi:yo'.

(Me, I live there, at, the, Allegany Territory.)

Da:h o:nëh, i:s ëseyë'he't ostö:h Onöndowa'ga:' gawë:nö'.

(So now, you, you will learn, a little, Seneca--People of the Great Hill, language.)

Hao' o:nëh ësahsawë'.

(OK, now, you will begin.)

So't, sënöhdö' na'od gaya:söh në:gë:h?

(So, you know, what, it is called, this?)

Dë'ëh gaya:söh?

(What, it is called?)

Adogwa'shä' gaya:söh.

(Spoon, it is called.)

Dë'ëh ni:' gya:söh?

(What, me, I am called?)

Sënöhdö'?

(You know?)

Sënöhdö' na'od ni:' gya:söh?

(You know, what, me, I am called?)

Ja:no's ni:' gya:söh.

(Ja:no's, me, I am called.)



Part 14

Ha'degagö:n ëkya:dö' ha'gwisdë', gwa:heh da'agënöhdö' ga:weh t'ga:e' neh ye:yadöhgwa'.

(It is necessary, I will write, something, but, I do not know, where, it is located, the, pen/pencil--one uses it for writing.)

Dewagadëjö:nih hi:gë:h ye:yadöhgwa'.

(I need, that, pen/pencil.)

Ga:weh t'ga:e'?

(Where is it located?)

De'ge:gëh.

(I do not see.)

Dë'ëh?

(What?)

De'sënöhdö' na'od hi:gë:h?

(You do not know, what, that "is"?)

So't, ha'degagö:n ëgeshë:wi' hi:gë:h ye:yadöhgwa'.

(Well, it is necessary, I will find it, that, pen/pencil.)

Ga:weh t'ga:e'?

(Where, it is located?)

Nekohgwa:h t'ga:e'.

(Here, it is located.)

Në:dah neh ye:yadöhgwa'.

(Here it is, the, pen/pencil.)

Da:h o:nëh ogwe:nyö:h ëkya:dö'.

(So now, it is possible, I will write.)



Part 15:

Höwönötaönya:nih Gējohgwa'
Sga:d Wadönta'

October 2017



Ga' sä:de' (*-seo'dē'-)

Gyá'dih	Niwage'seo'dē'
Šyá'dih	Nisa'seo'dē'
Hayá'dih	Nio'seo'dē'
Yeyá'dih	Niyago'seo'dē'
Dehniya:se:h	Niyökni'seo'dē'
Deyakniya:se:h	Niyökni'seo'dē'
Dwagwe:göh	Niyögwa'seo'dē'
Agwagwe:göh	Niyögwa'seo'dē'

	Hawk clan		Heron clan		Snipe clan		Deer clan
Agehswë'gai:yo'	Agadae'ö:ga:'	Age'nehsi:yö'	Age:nyögwaiyö'				
Sehswë'gai:yo'	Sadae'ö:ga:'	Sa'nehsi:yö'	Sa:nyögwaiyö'				
Hohswë'gai:yo'	Hodae'ö:ga:'	Ho'nehsi:yö'	Ho:nyögwaiyö'				
Gohswë'gai:yo'	Godae'ö:ga:'	Go'nehsi:yö'	Go:nyögwaiyö'				
Ökniswë'gai:yo'	Öknyadae'ö:ga:'	Ökni'nehsi:yö'	Ökni:nyögwaiyö'				
Ögwaswë'gai:yo'	Ögwadae'ö:ga:'	Ögwa'nehsi:yö'	Ögwa:nyögwaiyö'				



Hōwōnōtaōnya:nih Gējohgwa'
Sga:d Wadōnta'

October 2017

 Turtle clan	 Wolf clan	 Bear clan	 Beaver clan
Genyahdē:h	Agata:yō:nih	Agejoni'ga:'	Agegē'ge:ga:'
Senyahdē:h	Sata:yō:nih	Sajoni'ga:'	Sagē'ge:ga:'
Hanyahdē:h	Hota:yō:nih	Hojoni'ga:'	Hogē'ge:ga:'
Yenyahdē:h	Gota:tō:nih	Gojoni'ga:'	Gogē'ge:ga:'
Dwanyahdē:h	Ōknyata:yō:nih	Ōknijoni'ga:'	Ōknigē'ge:ga:'
Agwanyahdē:h	Ōgwata:yō:nih	Ōgwajoni'ga:'	Ōgwagē'ge:ga:'

Ye:i' Nionöedza:geh

					
Onödowa'ga:'	Gayogwe:onö'	Onöda'ge:ga:'	Onēyotga:'	Ganyē'ge:onö'	Dasgeowē'ge:onö'



Part 16:

Introduction

Nya:weh Sgëno' (I am thankful you are well)

Nya:weh Sgëno' Swagwe:goh (I am thankful you all are well)

Dë'ëh ni:'šya:söh? (What you are called?)

_____ ni:'gya:söh (_____ I am called)

Ga:weh snö:ge'? (Where do you live?)

_____ knö:ge' (_____ I live there)

Do:h nisaksa'da:yë'? (How many kids do you have?)

_____ # _____ niwage'ksada:yë'. (I have _____ # _____ kids)

Do:h nisoshi:ya'goh? (How many winters have you crossed/How old are you?)

_____ # _____ niwagoshi:ya'goh (I have crossed _____ # _____ winters/I am _____ # _____ years old)

Ėsgö:gë'ae' (I will see you again)

Ėswa:gë'ae' (I will see you all again)



Local Communities

1



Jo:negano:h

Coldspring—Cold Water there

A creek fed by a cold water spring marks this site. An old council house and many homes were located here on the bank of the river. This community was lost when the Kinzua Dam was built.

2



Jo'sgwä:da:se:h

Kill Buck—It goes around stone

This area gets its name from a rock formation found in Great Valley Creek. The formation is located near the place

where the creek empties into the river.

3



Gwēhdä:ë:'

niganöhso'dē:h

Red House

The term "Red House" refers to a building with a red door. In Seneca it was described as a red house.

4



Onë'dagö:h

(Salamanca—in the evergreens)

Before the town of Salamanca was built, it was a hemlock

swamp. Once it was leased, the swamp was drained and the pine forest was logged, clearing the way for the railroad.

5



Jö:nya:dih

Jimersontown—other side of the flat

6



Dejodiha:kdö:h

Vandalia, Horseshoe, Carrolton—at the river bend



7



O'soägö:h

Pinewoods—in the pines

10



Jogowödih

Gowanda—other side of the ridge

8



Ganödase:'

Newtown—new town

11



Do:šyo:wë:h

Buffalo—between the basswoods

9



Sgëhö:dih

Indian Hill—other side of the creek

12



Johihso'

Olean—Weeds in the Water



Part 17:



O' – Past Tense

Te:dë' – Yesterday



Ë –Future Tense

Ëyo:hë't – Tomorrow

Target Verb- "Going"

Gya'dih – (I: ') – I / Me

Ho'ge' – I went there **Hë:ge'** – I will go there

Sya'dih (I: s) – You

Ho'se:' – You went there **Hëhse'** – You will go there

Ga:weh?..... Where?

Past Tense

Ex1). Ga:weh ho'se'? – Where did you go?

_____ ho'ge'.

_____ I went there.

Jonya:dih ho'ge'.

Jimtown, I went there.

Ex2). Jonya:dih ho'se' te:dë'?

Did you go to Jimtown yesterday?

Ë:h, Jonya:dih ho'ge' te:dë'.

Yes, I went to Jimtown yesterday.

Future Tense

Ex3). Ga:weh hëhse'? – Where will you go?

_____ hë:ge'.

_____ I will go there.

Jonya:dih hë:ge'.

Jimtown, I will go there.

Ex4). Jonya:dih hëhse' ëyo:hë't?

Will you go to Jimtown tomorrow?

Ë:h, Jonya:dih hë:ge' ëyo:hë't.

Yes, I will go to Jimtown tomorrow.