



Onöndowa'ga:' Gawë:nö'--Seneca (People of the Great Hill) Language
Online Class
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INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT

Part 1: Ganö:nyök

Use when opening...

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

Use one of the following, depending on the item being thanked/honored:

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

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

dëdwanö:nyö:'---we give thanks to it

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

---Insert item being thanked---

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

Use when closing...

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

Use one of the following, depending on the item being thanked/honored:

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

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

dësayagwanö:nyö'---we acknowledge it again

dëshedwanö:nyö'---we acknowledge him again

---Insert item being thanked---

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



Use for opening and closing...

- **ha'deyögwe'dage:h**—all of the people
- **ethinö'eh yöëdzade'**—our Mother Earth
- **o:nëgitgësö'**—there are natural springs
o:negahdë:jö:h—flowing streams
ga:negada:nyö'—all that has water in it
ga:negowa:në's—big waters
heyo:do'k--including everything up to that point
- **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'dewënödë:nö:de:' Johehgöh**—Three Sisters, Our Life Sustainers
- **deyoä:wënye:h**—stirring wind, breeze
- **ethihso:d hadiwënodaje's**—Our grandfathers the thunderers
- **Hi'nö'**—Leader of the Thunderers
- **shedwahji' ë:de:kha:' gähgwa:'**—Our Elder Brother, the daytime orb of light (sun)
- **ethihso:d söe:kha:' gähgwa:'**--Our Grandmother the night-time orb of light (moon)
- **gajihso'dëönyö'**—there are stars in it (stars)
- **shedwagowanë:nö' Sganyodaiyo'**—Our Great Leader Handsome Lake
- **ge:ih nyënödi:h hadiöya'geönö'**—Four Beings, Sky Dwellers
- **Sögwajënö'kda'öh**—Our Creator



Part 2: Survival Seneca

1
Dë'ëh?
What?

7
Ga:wëh?
Where?

15
!:s ne:wa'.
You, this time.

2
Dë'ëh në:gë:h?
What is this?

8
Sö:h?
Who?

16
Sö:h ne:wa'?
Who this time?

3
Dë'ëh hi:gë:h?
What is that?

9
Wë:dö:h?
When?

17
Ja:göh!
Keep up the good work!

4
Dë'ëh gaya:söh?
What is it called?

10
Dë'ëh go:wa:h?
Why?

18
Ga:jih.
You (1 person) come here.

5
Dë'ëh o'si'?
What did you say?

11
Dë'ëh nisaje:ëh?
What are you doing?

19
Go'geh!
Hurry!

6
**Dë'ëh
nigawë:no'dë _____
neh
ö'gwe'öwe:kha:'?**
What is the word for _____
the Indian way?

12
Ne:' hi:gë:h!
That's it!

20
ë:h
yes

7
Di'gwah, da'agënohdö'.
I really do not know.

13
De'ne:' hi:gë:h!
That's not it!

21
hë'ëh
no

14
Dë'ëh gë:döh?—What does it mean?



Part 3: Introductions / Well-being / Family

Dë'eh?---What?

_____ **šya:söh**---You are called.

_____ **yeyasö:nö'**---She was called.

_____ **hayasö:nö'**---He was called.

_____ **gya:söh**---I am called.

_____ **yeya:söh**---she is called.

_____ **haya:söh**---he is called.

-gëö'---implies the person mentioned is deceased

_____ **de'šya:söh**---you are not called

_____ **de'eyasöh**---she is not called

_____ **de'gya:söh**---I am not called

_____ **da:yasöh**---he is not called

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

Sgë:nö'!---peace / well-being

ë:h---yes

a:yë:' nä:h---it seems that way

hae'---hello / hi

Sadögweta'?---Are you well?

hë'ëh---no

ha'degaye:i'---good enough

gadögweta'---I feel well

sadögweta'---you feel well.

yödögweta'---she feels well.

hadögweta'---He feels well.

de'gadögwe:ta'---I do not feel well.

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

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

da:dögwe:ta'---He does not feel well.

agatsëhdöh---I am tired.

gotsëhdöh---She is tired.

satsëhdöh---You are tired.

hotsëhdöh---He is tired.

aknö:kda:nih---I am sick.

gonö:kda:nih---She is sick.

sanö:kda:nih---You are sick.

honö:kda:nih---He is sick.



daughter	son	granddaughter	grandson
kea:wak (my daughter)	hea:wak (my son)	keya:de' (my granddaughter)	heya:de' (my grandson)
shea:wak (your daughter)	hehsa:wak (your son)	sheya:de' (your granddaughter)	hehsa:de' (your grandson)
shagoa:wak (his daughter)	hoa:wak (his son)	shago:de' (his granddaughter)	höwö:de' (his grandson)
goa:wak (her daughter)	höwö:wök (her son)	gode' (her granddaughter)	höwö:de' (her grandson)

Example sentences:

- Dë'ëh haya:söh Christine höwö:wök?
- John da:ya:söh Jane höwö:de'.
- Janet yeyasö:nö' Tim hono'ë:gëö'.
- A:yë:' nä:h, de'ödögwe:ta' Tina sheya:de'.

mother	father	grandmother	grandfather
akno'ëh / no'yëh (my mother)	hage'nih / ha'nih (my father)	akso:d (my grandmother)	hakso:d (my grandfather)
sano'ëh (your mother)	ya'nih (your father)	sahso:d (your grandmother)	yahso:d (your grandfather)
gono'ëh (her mother)	go'nih (her father)	gohso:d (her grandmother)	gohso:d (her grandfather)
hono'ëh (his mother)	ho'nih (his father)	hohso:d (his grandmother)	hohso:d (his grandfather)



older sister	older brother	younger sister	younger brother
ahji' (my older sister)	hahji' (my older brother)	ke'gë:' (my younger sister)	he'gë:' (my younger brother)
sahji' (your older sister)	yahji' (your older brother)	she'gë:' (your younger sister)	hehse'gë:' (your younger brother)
gohji' (her older sister)	gohji' (her older brother)	go'gë:' (her younger sister)	höwö'gë:' (her younger brother)
hohji' (his older sister)	hohji' (his older brother)	shago'gë:' (his younger sister)	ho'gë:' (his younger brother)

aunt	uncle	nephew	niece
age:hak (my aunt)	hakno'sëh (my uncle)	heyë:wö:dë' (my nephew)	keyë:wö:dë' (my niece)
sahak (your aunt)	yano'sëh (your uncle)	hehsë:wö:dë' (your nephew)	sheyë:wö:dë' (your niece)
go:hak (her aunt)	hono'sëh (her uncle)	höwö:wö:dë' (her nephew)	ödädë:wö:dë' (her niece)
höwö:hak (his aunt)	shagono'sëh (his uncle)	ho:wö:dë' (his nephew)	shagowö:dë' (his niece)



	Married to Someone	In a Relationship with Someone
<i>somebody & I</i>	akninyágöh (___ and I are married.)	ögya:tših (___ and I are in a relationship.)
<i>you & somebody</i>	sninya:göh (You and ___ are married.)	snyatših (You and ___ are in a relationship.)
<i>somebody & somebody</i>	hodinyagöh (___ and ___ are married.)	honö:tših (___ and ___ are in a relationship.)

wife	husband
kegëhjih (my old lady)	hegëhjih (my old man)
shegëhjih (your old lady)	hehsegëhjih (your old man)
Shagogëhjih (his old lady)	höwögëhjih (her old man)



Part 4: Söh neh Shenoöhgwa'?

Reference Sheet

Created by Lauren Stevens

Our targeted word in the video: **Gönoöhgwa'**

Transitive Verb Root **Suffix**

verb root for “love” in the English-Seneca Dictionary, compiled by William Chafe

(*-noröhw-) = (*-noöhw-)

This is the most original form of the root = what it evolves into in Seneca form

Typical Parts of a Seneca Word

All of the yellow-circled words are being used for target word

Modal/tense= the “when” that becomes at the beginning of a word

Conjugation= the “who” that comes prior to the root

Transitive= the “someone to someone” that comes prior to the root

There are about 36 types of transitives. The following (4) are what we used in the video.

She= You >>Her/them **Ke**= I/Me>>Her/them

He= I/meMe>>Him **Gö**= I/Me>>You

“Stem”= *what the verb root starts with*. Recognizing what the root starts with will help determine the type of **conjugation** style needed.



There are (5) different kind of “stems”

C-stem – the “c” is short for a root that starts with a consonant (English term for anything that is not a vowel)

A-stem – the root starts with the vowel, “a”

E-stem – the root starts with the vowel, “e”

I-stem -the root starts with the vowel, “i”

O-stem -the root starts with the vowel, “o”

Suffix≡ indicates the frequency of how the verb is being used in context

Other vocabulary words used in the video:

Söh * neh * shenoöhgwa’? =

Who * broad context of a particle=is, do, the...* you love her/them?

(Who do you love?/Who is someone that you love?)

****When specifying anyone in general, we can use the Female conjugation or transitive relation.*****

Responses in order presented in Video:

1.) Ooh neh ni:’! **Kenoöhgwa’** neh **Kea:wakshö’**.

Ooh, me! I love them, my daughters.

Kea:wak= she’s my daughter

Kea:wakshö’= they’re my daughters OR My children (including sons)

2.) **Kenoöhgwa’** neh **kwaji:yä’**.

I love them, my family.

Kwaji:yä’= My family

3.) **Kenoöhgwa’** neh **Akwajiyä’**.

I love them, my family

Akwajiyä’= Another way to say My family.



4.) **Aknö'ëh kenoöhgwa', oyède:d.**

My mother is who I love, obviously.

Aknö'ëh= My mother **oyède:d**= a particle word expressed as something that's apparent

5.) **Henoöhgwa' deyagyadasdeisdöh. Koh, ha'dekenoöhgwa' Kea:wak.**

I love him, my "husband." Also, I mostly love her, my daughter.

Deyagyadasdeisdöh= We're in charge of each other, used for significant others

Kea:wak=My daughter

6.) **Henoöhgwa' neh Aknösgwayë'. "Haksa'diyöh" haya:söh.**

I love him, the pet that I have. "Good Boy" is his name.

Aknösgwayë'= I have a pet **Haksa'diyöh**= He is a good child **haya:söh**= "is what his name is"

7.) **Oh! Henoöhgwa' neh Hea:wak. Deoyä'hö' nihsëno'dëh.**

Oh! I love him, my son. Deoyä'hö' is his real name that was given to him.

Hea:wak= He's my son **Nihsëno'dëh**= is what his real name is (ögwë'öweh")

Gönoöhgwa'! **Gönoöhgwa', koh!**

I love you!

I love you, too!

8.) **Kea:wak...Gönoöhgwa'!**

My daughter, I love you!

Gönoöhgwa'

I love you

9.) **Gönoöhgwa' Hea:wak!**

I love you, My son!

Gönoöhgwa'

I love you



Other “c-stem” practice words recommended at the end:

Verb Roots <i>Transitives</i>	-nöe’s	-yëde:ih	-ya’disha:s
She You>> Her/Them	Shenöe’s <i>You like her</i> <i>You like them</i>	Sheyëde:ih <i>You know her</i> <i>You know them</i>	Sheya’dihsa:s <i>You miss her</i> <i>You miss them</i>
Hehs You>> Him	Hehsnöe’s <i>You like him</i>	Hehšyëde:ih <i>You know him</i>	Hehšya’dihsa:s <i>You miss him</i>
Ke I (me)>> Her/Them	Kenöe’s <i>I like her</i> <i>I like them</i>	Keyëde:ih <i>I know her</i> <i>I know them</i>	Keya’dihsa:s <i>I miss her</i> <i>I miss them</i>
He I (me)>> Him	Henöe’s <i>I like him</i>	Heyëde:ih <i>I know him</i>	Heya’dihsa:s <i>I miss him</i>
Gö I(me)>> You	Gönöe’s <i>I like you</i>	Göyëde:ih <i>I know you</i>	Göya’dihsa:s <i>I miss you</i>



<p>Verb Roots</p> <p><i>Transitives</i></p>	<p>-noöhgwa'</p>
<p>She</p> <p>You>> Her/Them</p>	<p>Shenoöhgwa'</p> <p><i>You love her</i></p> <p><i>You love them</i></p>
<p>Hehs</p> <p>You>> Him</p>	<p>Hehsnoöhgwa'</p> <p><i>You love him</i></p>
<p>Ke</p> <p>I (me)>> Her/Them</p>	<p>Kenoöhgwa'</p> <p><i>I love her</i></p> <p><i>I love them</i></p>
<p>He</p> <p>I (me)>> Him</p>	<p>Henoöhgwa'</p> <p><i>I love him</i></p>
<p>Gö</p> <p>I(me)>> You</p>	<p>Gönoöhgwa'</p> <p><i>I love you</i></p>



SÄH? People (general)	Odoni'a:h Baby	Godoni'a:h Baby girl	Hodoni'a:h Baby boy
	Hadiksa'shō'ōh Children	Yeksa'a:h Girl Child	Haksa'a:h Boy Child
		Yagōgwe'da:se' Young Woman	Hōgwe'dase' Young Man
	Ögweh Person	Yagō:gweh Woman	Hōgweh Man
		Yegēhjih Old Woman	Hagēhjih Old Man

SÄH? Family members	Kea:wakshō' My children	Agwadē:nō:k My siblings
	Kea:wak My daughter	Hear:wak My son
	Aknō'ēh My Mother	Hage'nih My Father
	Akso:d My grandmother	Hakso:d My grandfather

GA:WEH?	Ga'degesgēō' Cattaraugus	Ohi:yo' Allegany
	Tade:jē'sgeh Clinic	Tēnōdeyēsdagwa'geh School
	Tēnōdekōnya'ta'geh Restaurant	Tēnō'tganye'dahgwa'geh Gym/arena

WĒ:DÖH?	Te:dē' Yesterday	Nē:gēh wēnishade' today	ēyo:hē't tomorrow
		Tsi:sedehjih This morning	Sedehjia:neh in the morning
		Ha'dewēnishā:geh Noon	
		Nē:gēh hegāhgwa'a:neh This afternoon	
	Sō:de' Last night	Nē:gēh wasō:dade' Tonight	



DĒ' EHT	Aknō:kda:nih I'm sick	Gonō:kda:nih She's sick	Honō:kda:nih He's sick	Hodinō:kdanih They're sick
	Agadōswe'danilh I'm hungry	Godōswe'danilh She's hungry	Hodōswe'danilh He's hungry	Honōdōswe'danilh They're hungry
	Ēgaja'danlyā:d I will work out	Ēyōja'danlyā:d She will work out	Ēoja'danlyā:d He will work out	
	Ēgade:yēs I'll learn/study	Ēyō:deyēs She'll learn/study	Ēōde:yēs He'll learn/study	Ē:nodeyēs They'll learn/study

O'ke:gē' I saw her	(Sōh?) hēōweh there	(Ga:weh?) hēōweh there	(Wē:dōh?) neh (connector)
Wa:egē' I saw him	(Sōh?) hēōweh there	(Ga:weh?) hēōweh there	(Wē:dōh?) neh (connector)

Hē:ge:' I will go	(Ga:weh?) hēōweh there	(Dē'ēh?) so'jih because
Hē:yē:' She will go	(Ga:weh?) hēōweh there	(Sōh?) neh (connector)
Hē:e:' He will go	(Ga:weh?) hēōweh there	(Dē'ēh?) so'jih because

Ēkejō'se:nō' I will go visit her/them	(Sōh?) neh	(Wē:dōh?) so'jih keya'dihsa:s! because I miss her/them!
E:ejō'se:nō' I will go visit him	(Sōh?) neh	(Wē:dōh?) so'jih heya'dihsa:s! because I miss him!

Examples:

O'ke:gē' akso:d hēōweh Tēnōdekōnya'gwa'geh neh Sō:de'.
I saw my Grandma at the Restaurant last night.
(I saw her, my grandma, there where they cook food, last night)

Wa:egē' haks'a:h hēōweh Tēnōdeyēsdahgwa'geh tsisedehjih.
I saw a little boy at the School, this morning.

Hē:e:' hēōweh Tēnō'tganya'dahgwa'geh neh hagēhjih so'jih ēōja'danlyā:d.
The old man is going to the gym because he will work out.
(He will go, there where they play, the old man, because, he will make his body stronger)

Ēkejō'se:nō' agwadē:nō:kshō' neh ēyahēt' so'jih keya'dihsa:s!
I will go visit my siblings tomorrow because I miss them!
(I will go visit, my siblings, tomorrow, because, I miss them)



Part 5: Eating / Food / Meal Time

ëhse:k--you will eat it.

ëye:k---She will eat it.

sadöswe'da:nih--You are hungry.

godoswe'da:nih--She is hungry.

saga'has--Uou like the taste of it.

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

oga'öh--It tastes good.

ëge:k--I will eat it.

ëök---He will eat it.

agadöswe'da:nih--I am hungry.

hodoswe'da:nih---He is hungry.

agega'has--I like the taste of it.

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

de'oga'öh--It does not taste good.

dasgöh---Hand it to me.

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

hi:gë:h---that

hae'gwah---also

dasha:h---Bring it here.

në:gë:h---this

neh---the



ga:hwagi:'da:h
fry bread



ono:hwaw'
corn soup



gagaehdëhdö'
corn bread



o:negagi'
soup

To eat a meal

agadekö:ni:h.
I am eating.

sadekö:ni:h.
You are eating.

hodekö:ni:h
He is eating.

godekö:ni:h
She is eating.

ëgadekö:ni'
I will eat.

ësadekö:ni'
You will eat.

ëödekö:ni'
He will eat.

ëyödekö:ni'
She will eat.

o'gadekö:ni'
I ate.

o'sadekö:ni'
You ate.

wadekö:ni'
He ate.

wö'ödekö:ni'
She ate.



O:neganos
water



Onö'gwa'
milk



O:negawänöe'
sweet water



Oji:yagi'
berry juice



Dagä:'ë:' O'wa:'
chicken meat



Odzötgä:'
hook



Oähgwa'
bread



Gëdzöh
fish



Osa'e'da'
beans



Ga:nya'o:ya'
apple



Jo:sgwaön O'wa:'
cow meat



Okdeä' sö'öh
roots



Onëö'
corn



Ojisdöda'shä'
strawberry



Gaha'ta'
cheese (it binds)



Ogwa:a'
orange



O'höhsa'
eggs



Onönö'da'
potato



O:nyöhsa'
squash



Ojisgwanö:h
cold mush



Owä:nö'
sugar or candy

Part



Part 6: Numbers and Time

0--da'gwisdë'	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: 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 7: Games / Sports


<p>Ha'déwatgá:nye'shä:ge:h -All kinds of games</p>		<p>Atgá:nye'shä' -Game/toy</p>	
<p>"Ta:se'se:k Gaöshä!" "stay out of the box!"</p> 	<p>Niga:wasäa:h Short Snow Snake Ga:wa:se:s Long Snow Snake</p> 	<p>Niyo'not'a:h Owënoöh! MARCH MADNESS</p> 	<p>"Wis Oya:de!" "5 hole!"</p> 
<p>Dewa'ä:ö' Lacrosse</p>	<p>Ga:wa:sa' Snowsnake</p>	<p>Ga'ashäni:yö:n ë'ho:shä' Basketball (Hanging basket+Ball)</p>	<p>Owishä'ge:kha:' Hënötga:nyeh Hockey (Ice type+they play)</p>



Söh?

- Gëjohgwa'** - Team/group
Hodijohgwa' - Their team
(males/mixed)
Qodijohgwa' - Their team
(specifically females only)
Hënötga:nyeh - Players in a game
(They Play)
Hatga:nyeh - Male Player
Yötga:nyeh - Female Player
Hayësdanih - He coaches (teaches)
Höwöyësdanih - He coaches them
(He teaches him/them)

Dë'ëh?

- ëgatga:nye:'** -I will play
ëötga:nye:' -He will play
ëyötga:nye:' -She will play
ëgatsi'waë' -I will watch it
ëkeyatsi'waë' -I will watch them
(her/them)
dë:nöhshä:nye:' -They will practice
dë:ohshä:nye:' -He will practice
dë:yagohshä:nye:' -She will practice
o'gatgwe:ni' -I won!
waënötgwe:ni'! -They won!
wa:tgwe:ni'! -He won!
 **sadä'swi:yo:hi!** -You are lucky!



Ga:weh?

Ohi:yo' -Allegany

Onë'dagö:h -Salamanca

Jo:negi:yo:h -Randolph

Ganöndase:' -Newtown

Ga'dä:gësgë:ö' -Cattaraugus

Do:Šyo:wë:h -Buffalo

Jogöwödih -Gowanda

Tgaenödëhda:' -Silver Creek

Joë'hesta' -Angola (Lake Shore)

Tënötga:nye'dahgwa'geh

-Place where they play/gym/arena

Tënödeyë:sta'gwa'geh -School

Wë:döh?

Në:gëh wë:nishäde' -Today (this day)

Jigwus -Later

Ëyo:hë't -Tomorrow

Në:gëh na'dewadëdae' heyö:do'k

-This weekend

Te:dë' -Yesterday

Sö:de' -Last night

Try using your own players & teams!

wa:tganye:' ga:wa:sa' te:dë'. Wa:tgwe:ni'!

NAME he played snowsnake yesterday He won!
(Joe played snowsnake yesterday. He won!)

Dë:nöhshä:nye:' dewa'ä:ö' ëyo:hë't neh Ohi:yo' gëjohgwa'! _____ **höwöyë:sdanih.**

They will practice lacrosse tomorrow the Allegany Team! NAME he coaches them.
(The Allegany team will practice tomorrow. Joe coaches them.)

Yötga:nyeh ga'ashäni:yö:n ë'ho:shä' neh _____, Yötga:nyes Jogöwödih Tënödeyë:sta'gwa'geh Odijohgwa'.

She's a player hanging basket ball FEMALE NAME. She plays Gowanda School Female Team.
(Jane is a Basketball Player. She plays for the Gowanda School Team.)

Do:Šyo:wë:h Hodijohgwa' ë:nötga:nye:' në:gëh na'dewadëdae' heyö:do'k. ëkeyatsi'waë' neh Owishä'ge:kha:' Hënötga:nyeh.

Buffalo Their team they will play this week end. I will watch them the Ice type Players
(The Buffalo Sabres Team will play this weekend. I'll watch the Hockey game.)

