

Kaska Conversations

**Recorded by Josephine Acklack and Grady Sterriah
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Conversation 1

Bill: Enzí' dúguyā?
What's your name?

Lena: Eszí' Lucy gúyē.
My name is Lucy.

Bill: Dahyegé guts'ih ent'ā?
Where are you from?

Lena: Dāliyô guts'ih lēst'ē.
I'm from Lower Post.

Where Are You from?

Dahyegé guts'ih ent'ā?
Where are you from?

Tū Łídlīni guts'ih lēst'ē.
I'm from Ross River.

Tsídāgi Lūgé' ts'ih lēst'ē.
I'm from Watson Lake.

Kédidzā ts'ih lēst'ē.
I'm from Good Hope Lake.

Names

eszí	<i>my name</i>	guzí	<i>our names</i>
nezí	<i>your name</i>	nehzí	<i>your pl. names</i>
mezí	<i>his/her name</i>	gezí	<i>their names</i>

Names do not exist in isolation but must belong to someone. You can't say *zí* by itself.

Useful Expressions

Dūlǎ́ meyésdǐh.

I don't know.

Máhsi

Thank you.

Sógá sǎnlá

Thank you.

Engánustǎ sǐ

Good bye. (See you.)

Conversation 2

Peter:

Mā eǎā?

Who is that?

Michael:

Karsten lǎǎ.

It's Karsten.

Peter:

Dahyegé gutsǐh eǎā?

Where is he from?

Michael:

Vancouver gutsǐh lǎǎ.

He's from Vancouver.

Conversation 3

John: Dene k'éh nezí' dúgunyā?
What are you called in Kaska?

Brendan: Etsídetsedzi gúsye.
They call me Etsídetsedzi.

John: Yē kā kénégedīa?
Why do they call you that?

Brendan: Etsídetsedzi segedī estsíghá de'ale yéh.
They call me Etsídetsedzi because my hair is blond.

Conversation 4

Leslie: Yē e'ā?
What is this?

Mida: Dedi gudh̄ht'áné' lēt'ē.
This is caribou weed.

Leslie: Yē ts'ih etie?
What is it good for?

Mida: Dekos ts'í etie.
It's good for colds.

Efāne *Plants*

gidzjht'áne' *caribou weed*

tdzustsēfūdžé *balsam bark*

k'estūdžé *alder bark*

tehdudzeťūdžé *tamarack bark*

gúle *willow bark*

Yē ts'í etie?
what is it good for?

Dene dekosi ts'í etie.
It's good for colds.

Denek'ásé k'i ts'í' etie.
It's also good for people's throats.

Denek'ásé dedíhí ts'í etie.
It's good for sore throats.

Denebét dedíhi ts'í' etie.
It's good for upset stomach.

Énéfē ts'í' etie.
It's good for everything.

Conversation 5

Ann: Mā ts'ise e'ā? *Whose tent is this?*

Phoebe: Aggie ts'ih lēt'ē. *It's Aggie's.*

Ann: Medege tses légedzeduch'ili. *Let's split some firewood for her.*

Phoebe: Ham. *Yes.*

Mā Ts'ílé Etā? ***Whose Axe Is It?***

Ests'ílé let'ē. *It's my axe.*

Ents'ílé let'ē. *It's your axe.*

Mets'ílé let'ē. *It's his/her axe.*

Guts'ílé let'ē. *They are our axes.*

Nehts'ílé let'ē. *They are your (plural) axes.*

Gets'ílé let'ē. *They are their axes.*

Tses Légedzeduch'ili Let's Split Firewood

Esdege tses légedzeduch'ili.
Let's split some firewood for me.

Endege tses légedzeduch'ili.
Let's split some firewood for you.

Medege tses légedzeduch'ili.
Let's split some firewood for him/her.

Gudege tses légudzeduchíli.
Let's split some firewood for us.

Nehdege tses légudzeduchíli.
Let's split some firewood for you plural.

Gedege tses légudzeduchíli.
Let's split some firewood for them.

Conversation 6

Thomas: Dénhǎ? *How are you?*

Josephine: Kulā estie. *I'm fine.*

Thomas: Dahyegé tsǐ dīnyāla? *Where are you going?*

Josephine: Dene kugehdīkqā tsǐ dāsyāl. *I'm going to the school.*

Dzedu'āzi *Let's Both Go*

Nǎ Mené tsǐ dzedu'āzǐ.
Let's go to Lapie Lakes.

Tū Łídlīni tsǐ dzedu'āzǐ.
Let's go to Ross River.

Tūchō tsǐ dzedu'āzǐ.
Let's go to Frances Lake.

Dāliyô tsǐ dzedu'āzǐ.
Let's go to Lower Post.

Dzedudélí Let's All Go

Níā Mené ts'í dzedudélí.
Let's go to Lapie Lakes.

Tū Łídlīni ts'í dzedudélí.
Let's go to Ross River.

Tuchō ts'í dzedudélí.
Let's go to Frances Lake.

Dāliyô ts'í dzedudélí.
Let's go to Lower Post.

Josephine ts'í Yendī Ask Josephine

Josephine ts'í, "Tsīł esgagáh nén'á," yéndī!
Ask Josephine for an axe.

Josephine ts'í, "Saw esgagáh néntí," yéndī!
Ask Josephine for a saw.

Josephine ts'í, "Suně esyénñkâ," yéndī.
As Josephine for some flour.

Josephine ts'í, "Dāne esyénñlé," yéndī!
Ask Josephine for some money.

Josephine ts'í, "Dāne esgagáh nénhtsūs," yéndī!
Ask Josephine to give you some money (paper money)!

Josephine ts'í, "Nebōdé yéh gudzukehi," yéndī!
Ask Josephine to boat around with her boat.

Conversation 7

Grady:	Dénhǎ?	<i>How are you?</i>
Nancy:	De'os sedéhhīn.	<i>I've got a cold.</i>
Grady:	Dahyegé dīnyāla?	<i>Where are you going?</i>
Nancy:	Nursing Station ts'ǐ dāsyāǎ.	<i>I'm going to the Nursing Station.</i>

Denhǎ? ***How are You?***

De'os sedéhhīn.	<i>I've got a cold.</i>
Estsǐ dedíh.	<i>I've got a headache.</i>
Estsǐ yédésdíh.	<i>My head hurts.</i>
Esbét yédésdíh.	<i>My stomach hurts.</i>
Estie endúé.	<i>I'm tired.</i>
Estie kudestlǐt.	<i>I'm tired.</i>
Kulā estie.	<i>I'm fine.</i>
Kulā dzetie.	<i>We're both good.</i>
Kulā getie.	<i>They're both good.</i>
Kulā nédzétie.	<i>We're all good.</i>
Kulā négétie.	<i>They're all good.</i>

Conversation 8

Doris: Mā dekosa tāchā tedze?
Who was coughing last night?

Sandy: Jimmy sāt'ī ná.
It must have been Jimmy.

Doris: Łáné sâ dekös yedéhhîn.
He must have a bad cold.

Sandy: Nón medege ts'uhbédzí?
Let's boil some medicine for him?

Conversation 9

Linda: Kulā gutie enlīn-am? *Are you feeling okay?*

Theresa: Dédū kulā estie. *I'm good now.*

Linda: Ejedzedu'ázi. *Let's go hunting.*

Theresa: Kulā, ejedzedu'ázi. *Okay, let's go hunting.*

Conversation 10

Roberta: Josephine ts'í, "Eyé denāts'íhe esyénñ'á." yendī.
Ask Josephine to give you some butter.

Jonathan: Josephine kóá hī dahyegé gúlīna?
Where is Josephine's house?

Roberta: Ah'áné lā Josephine ts'ísé dehsehtsúza.
Josephine's tent is set up over to the side there.

Jonathan: Josephine, eyé denāts'íhé esyénñ'á.
Josephine, give me some butter.

Josephine: I nédén'á.
You can take that.

Conversation 11

Joseph: Bēsk'â Mené ts'í ts'edu'ázi.
Let's both go to Seagull Lake.

Junior: Únē gúst'íhí s'í łahtāde sas gádzenut'ái.
I'll bring my gun in case we see a bear.

Jospeh: Tū gúsgéh s'í.
I'll bring some water. (in a container in a pack)

Junior: Béde gúsgéh s'í
I'll bring some food.

Dahyege ts'í Dīnyāla? Where Are You Going?

Dene kegehdī kóą ts'í dāsyāł.

I'm going to the school.

Dene négekēdi kóą ts'í dāsyāł.

I'm going to the store.

Nursing Station ts'í dāsyāł.

I'm going to the nursing station.

Dāne selā kóą ts'í dāsyāł.

I'm going to the bank.

Dene dets'í gēgugenedzi kóą ts'í dāsyāł.

I'm going to the post office.

Dinyāl-am? Are you going?

dīnyāl-am *Are you going?*

dāyāł *He/she is going.*

dzedāás *We (2) are going.*

dahás *You (2) are going.*

gedāás *They (2) are going.*

dzedādét *We (pl.) are going.*

dehdét *You (pl.) are going.*

gedédét *They are going.*

Conversation 12

- Rose: Yē enyéle fáat kut'éselā?
What's in your pack?
- Colleen: Tsēk'ā yéh bēs yéh gut'éselā.
There's a file and a knife in there.
- Colleen: Łūge zōze yéh suněťés yéh kut'ésela.
There are some sardines and bannock.
- Colleen: Ts'ienóné' kī gudéses'ān.
There is even some mosquito dope.

Conversation 13

- Doris: Dene k'éh dedi dégíhdīa?
What is the name of this in Kaska?
- Mary: "Tehmíl," keyíhdī Dene k'éh.
They call it "net" in Kaska.
- Doris: Leda ts'í, "Dāsgúh Dene k'éh dégiyíhdia?
Ask Leda how you say it.
- Mary: Leda, dāsgúh net gíhdia, Dene k'éh?
Leda, how do you say "net" in Kaska?
- Leda: "Tehmíl," gíhdī lā.
They say tehml.

Enti-am? Are You Good?

Enti-am?	<i>Are you good?</i>
Ham, estie.	<i>Yes, I'm good.</i>
Endúé, estsí dedíh.	<i>No, I have a headache.</i>
Endúé, desbét.	<i>No, I'm hungry.</i>
Endúé, desdíh.	<i>No, I'm sick.</i>
Endúé, tískón.	<i>No, I'm hot.</i>
Endúé, esdíyâ.	<i>No, I'm lonely.</i>
Endúé, lánéyéh desbét.	<i>No, I'm really hungry.</i>
Endúé, lã deyédēsdih.	<i>No, I'm really sick.</i>
Endúé láné tískón.	<i>No, I'm really hot.</i>

Body Parts

estsí	<i>my head</i>
metsí	<i>his/her head</i>
eszí	<i>my body</i>
mezí	<i>his/her body</i>
esyú'	<i>my tooth</i>
meyú'	<i>his/her tooth</i>
eské	<i>my foot</i>
meké	<i>his/her foot</i>

(In Kaska the words for body parts are always used with a possessive prefix, such as es- 'my' or me- 'his/her')

Questions

Denbéd-am?	Are you happy?
Tū nenzén-am?	Are you thirsty?
Sendli-am?	Are you cold?/Are you starving?
Ent'ie endúé-am?	Are you tired?
Endíya-am?	Are you lonely?

Being Sick

Desdíh.	<i>I'm sick.</i>
Dendíh-am.	<i>Are you sick?</i>
Dedíh.	<i>He's sick/she's sick.</i>
Dzededíh.	<i>We (2) are sick.</i>
Dehdíh.	<i>You (2) are sick.</i>
Gededíh.	<i>They (2) are sick.</i>
Nédzédédíh.	<i>We (pl.) are sick.</i>
Négédédíh.	<i>They (pl.) are sick.</i>
Nédéhdíh.	<i>You (pl.) are sick.</i>

Agreement

Ham.	Yes	Endúé	No
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Mā Kóḡa Eta? *Whose House Is It?*

Eskóḡa lēt'ē. *It's my house.*

Enkóḡa lēt'ē. *It's your house.*

Mekóḡa lēt'ē. *It's his/her house.*

Gekóḡa lēt'ē. *It's their house.*

Gukóḡa lēt'ē. *It's our house.*

Nahkóḡa lēt'ē. *It's your (pl.) house.*

Singular and plural nouns are generally the same in Kaska, so *gekóḡa*, for instance, could be either 'their house' or 'their houses'.

Conversation 14

Susan: Lǎ gutie shāstē.
I slept really well.

Pat: Endege gúsdli-am?
Was it cold for you?

Susan: Endúé, dūǎ esdege gúsdli.
No, it wasn't cold for me.

Susan: Netsédéstāni, "Gúsdli," nessen.
When I woke up, I thought, "it's cold."

Bringing Things

1. Suněťés duslé sĭ. *I'll bring some bannock.*
2. Bēs dus'ā sĭ. *I'll bring a knife.*
3. Tsĭt dus'ā sĭ. *I'll bring an axe.*
4. Ūnē dustĭ sĭ. *I'll bring a gun.*
5. Etsén dus'ā sĭ. *I'll bring some meat.*
6. Lidĭ duslé sĭ. *I'll bring some tea.*
7. Béde ľā néstlōn duslé sĭ. *I'll bring lots of food.*

What's in Your Pack?

1. Neyéle' tāt yé gudéselā?
What's in your pack?
2. Teyeli yéh medechené' gudésela'.
There's a drum and a drum stick in there.
3. Łūge ch'āsh gudésela'.
There are some fish hooks in there.
4. Ts'āt yéh sānóné' gudésela'.
There's a hat and sunscreen in there.
5. Dzídzetŭ yéh, sandwich yéh gudésela'.
There is some juice and a sandwich in there.

How do You Say?

1. Dēsgúh Dene k'éh *net* dendia?

How do you say net in Kaska?

2. Dēsgúh *get up* dendia, Dene k'éh?

How do you say get up in Kaska?

3. Dēsgúh *jackfish* dendia?

How do you say jackfish in Kaska?

Conversation 15a ***Kedazés Moose Hide***

Pat: Mā kedāzészé eřā?
Whose moose hide is it?

Selena: Mida ts'ih lēřē. (or Mida kedāzészé lēřē.)
It's Mida's (or It's Mida's moosehide.)

Pat: Kahseh yē déts'ulā?
What do we do first?

Selena: Kehseh meghá' kénřás bēs yéh.
First you cut off the hair with a knife.

Conversation 15b
Kedazés Moose Hide

Pat: Yē yéh meghá kénťáza?
What do you cut the hair with?

Mida: Bēs denik’á yéh kénťás.
You cut it with a sharp knife.

Pat: Dedi bēs mek’á endúé.
This knife isn’t sharp.

Mida: Tsēk’as yéh bēs nenk’ás.
Sharpen it with a file.

Conversation 15c
Kedazés Moose Hide

Helen: Ī dechen yē dege et’ā?
What are the poles for?

Jeannie: Kedāzés dechené ts’ulé sī.
We’re going to make a frame for the moose hide.

Helen: Dedáhcho dzedēlīla?
How big do we make it?

Jeannie: Kedāzés yādégé dáchō ts’edēlīl.
We will make it bigger than the moose hide.

Dedi Mā Ts'ih E'ta?***Whose Is This?***

Dedi esbēzé lēfē.
This is my knife.

Dedi eskúk'ǎ lēfē.
This is my cup.

Dedi enbēzé lēfē.
This is your knife.

Dedi enkúk'ǎ lēfē.
This is your cup.

Dedi mebēzé lēfē.
This is his/her knife.

Dedi mekúk'ǎ lēfē.
This is his/her cup.

Dedi gubēzé lēfē.
These are our knives.

Dedi gukúk'ǎ lēfē.
These are our cups.

Dedi nahbēzé lēfē.
These are your (plural) knives.

Dedi nehkúk'ǎ lēfē.
These are your cups.

Dedi gebēzé lēfē.
These are their knives.

Dedi gekúk'ǎ lēfē.
These are their cups.

Dedi Vera ezés lēfē.
This is Vera's moosehide.

Dedi Selena kúk'ǎ lēfē.
This is Selena's cup.

Kéhseh yē dédzedēlīla?***What do we do first?***

Kéhseh yē dédzedēlīla?

What do we do first?

Kehseh nelá en'óts.

First, wash your hands.

Kehseh, dests'i kényá.

First, get some dry branches.

Kehseh, eyé tihkóni enlé, tsēwēt kéh. *First, heat some oil in a pan.*

Kehseh, kúk'ǎ e'ígé suně tenéntl'ít. *First, put in one cup of flour.*

Kehseh, kī tses lédentí.

*First, get a big piece of
birch wood.*

Ye Nenzena? What Do You Want?

Kedachāgé yénlīn-am?

Do you want moose ribs?

Desk'eshe yénlīn-am?

Do you want grayling?

Suněťés yénlīn-am?

Do you want some bannock?

Dénbéd-am? Are You Hungry?

Denbéd-am?

Are you hungry?

Ham, desbét.

Yes I'm hungry.

Endúé, dūľá desbét.

No, I'm not hungry.

Ts'á kényá.

Get a plate.

Kúk'ā kényá.

Get a cup.

Lidí yādenk'ā.

Dip out some tea.

Ts'á nedentí.

Pick up a plate.

Kúk'ā néden'ā.

Pick up a cup.

Lidí endege guként'īt.

Pour some tea for yourself.

Yē Edīa? What's That Noise?

Yē edia? What's that noise?

Tseli lēdī. It's a gopher.

Tseli dāzūze lēdī. It's just a little gopher.

Ī mechó dahyé gé sâ gétlèhi.

The big one must be running around somewhere.

Áhdā lēdī. It's an eagle.

Túhtseyi lēdī. It's a loon.

Tsá lēdī. It's a beaver.

Tsá dáchó lēdī. It's a big beaver.

Tsá ghó dé lēdī. It's a little beaver.

Tsátsié lēdī. It's a baby beaver.

Conversation 16

Ye Dun'ja Yénlina? *What do You Want to Do?*

Pat: Junior tu' kúyāi yénelīn.
Junior wants to go get water.

Phoebe dzídze kúyāi yénelīn.
Phoebe wants to pick berries.

Aggie tses kúyāi yénelīn.
Aggie wants to go get wood.

Yē dún'ja yénlina?
What do you want to do?

Junior: Desesťi yéneslīne.
I want to lie down.

Shenustêi yéneslīne.
I want to sleep a little.

Yē Dún'ia Yénlina? *What Do You Want to Do?*

Yē dún'ja yénlina?
What do you want to do?

Dāliyô ts'í dusyā yéneslīn.
I want to go to Lower Post.

Ush'āzi yéneslīn.
I want to go fishing.

Ustsédzi yéneslīn.
I want to eat.

Dzídze nusbéhí yéneslīn.
I want to pick berries.

Conversation 17

- Lloyd: Men nāsđī ts'į dzedukei.
Let's go to the other side by boat.
- Peter: Łahtāde kedā gāts'enutāi kúhnāné.
Maybe we'll see a moose over there.
- Lloyd: Łahtāde hūge tédzulé kúhnāné.
Maybe we'll catch some fish over there.
- Peter: Hadi, chā néduťídi gágúhtē.
Hurry, it looks like it's going to rain soon.

Ahdegé gédzukehi. Let's boat around up the lake.

Ahdá gédzukehi.
Let's go down the lake.

Ahdégé dzedu'ázi.
Let's climb up the mountain.

Ahtsá men ts'į dzedu'ázi.
Let's go down by the lake.

Gédzuťási.
Let's both walk around.

Gédzudéli.
Let's walk around (three or more people).