

Tsalagi Gawonihisdi Agsesdohdi  
Kagi Iyusdi Nihi Explanation

Example dialog: Personal presentations

Tsani:	Siyo. Osigwutsu?	Hello. Is it good?
Meli:	Siyo. Osigwu. Ihina?	Hello. It's good. And you?
Tsani:	Ayasgwu osigwu. Gedo detsado'a?	It's good. What is your name?
Meli:	Meli dagwado'a. Do detsado'a nihi?	My name is Mary. What's your name?
Tsani:	Tsani dagwado'a. Kagi iyusdi tsatsi?	My name is John. Who is your mother?
Meli:	Gweti Gagama agitsi. Gedo dudo'a tsatsi?	Betty Cucumber is my mother. What is your mother's name?
Tsani:	Sali Tsisgwa dodo'a agitsi. Gatsv hinigilo'i?	My mother's name is Sally Bird. Where do you live?
Meli:	Wahyohi tsinigilo'i. Ihina?	I live in Wolftown. And you?
Tsani:	Tsisgwohi tsinigilo'i.	I live in Birdtown.
Meli:	Hvga itsadetiyyvda?	How old are you?
Tsani:	Talsgo-sogwu iyagwadetiyyvda.	I am twenty-one.
Meli:	Gali'eliga tsigvgowahta. Denadagohvya.	I am happy that I have seen you. We two will see each other soon.
Tsani:	Hawa. Denadagohvya.	Okay. We two will see each other soon.
Do detsado'a?	What is your name?	
Do dudo'a tsatsi?	What is your mother's name?	
Do dudo'a tsadoda?	What is your father's name?	
Gatsv hinigilo'i?	Where do you live?	
Gatsv ditsenvsvi?	Where is your home?	
Hvga itsadetiyyvda?	How old are you?	
Tsani dagwadoa.	My name is John.	
Gwedi dudoa agitsi.	My mother's name is Betty.	
Tsimi dudoa agidoda.	My father's name is James.	
Elawodi tsinigiloi.	I live in Yellow Hill.	
Elawodi digwenvsvi.	My home is in Yellow Hill.	
Neladu iyagwadetiyyvda.	I'm 18 years old.	

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Kag iyusdi nihi? Who are you? Dialog Analysis

Independent pronouns

aya	I
ihi	you

The basic independent pronouns are aya 'I' and ihi 'you.' Independent pronouns are only used for emphasis. The basic pronouns can be expanded as follows.

aya-sgwu	'me too'
nihi	'and you'
nihi-na, ihi-na	'and as for you'

Verbs carry information about people involved in the activity, so independent pronouns are not necessary. Non-independent pronouns are prefixes that are attached to the verb. agi-/agw- pronouns

d-agw-ado'a My name is ...	de-ts-ado'a Your name is ...	d-u-do'a Her/his name is ...
iy-agw-adetiyvda I am x years old.	i-ts-adetiyvda You are x years old.	iy-u-detiyvda She is x years old.
Agi-yosiha. I am hungry.	Tsa-yosiha. You are hungry.	U-yosiha. He is hungry.

Compare *Agiyosiha*. *I'm hungry*, without emphasis on the participant, and *Agiyosiha aya*. *As for me, I'm hungry*, with emphasis on the participant.

Kin terms like *mother* and *father* require pronouns in Cherokee in order to indicate the relationship.

agi-tsi my-mother	tsa-tsi your-mother	u-tsi his/her-mother
agi-doda my-father	tsa-doda your-father	u-doda his/her-father

Note that the kin terms take the agi-/agw- pronouns.

Yes/no questions are questions for which the answer is 'yes' or 'no.' These questions are formed by adding the question marker to the end of the first word of the sentence. We see the yes/no question marker –*tsu* in the basic greetings.

Osigwu-tsu?	Is it good?
Tohigwu-tsu?	Is it calm, right, good?
Hayolda-tsu?	Is it super?

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The question markers –*tsu/-sg* can be attached to a verb to create a complete Cherokee question.

Tsayosiha-*tsu*? / Tsayosihasg? Are you hungry?

Information questions ask for more than just yes or no. Information questions require that the listener supply some information.

Gedo 'what'

Gedo dudo'a tsatsi?

What is your mother's name?

Gedo iyusdi hi'a?

What is this?

Kagi 'who'

Kagi iyusdi hi'a?

Who is this?

Kagi iyusdi tsatsi?

Who is your mother?

Kagi iyusdi utsi?

Who is her mother?

Gatsv 'where'

Gatsv hinigilo'i?

Where do you live?

Gatsv ditsenvsv'i?

Where is your home?

For now simply note that *hinigilo'i* 'you live' takes *tsi-/g-* pronouns and *ditsenvsv'i* 'your home' takes *agi-/agw-* pronouns. The *tsi-/g-* pronouns contrast with the *agi-/agw-* pronouns.

tsi-nigilo'i	I live ...	hi-nigilo'i	You live ...	ga-nigilo'i	She/he lives ...
di-gw-envsv'i	my home	di-ts-envsv'i	your home	ts-uw -envsv'i	his/her home

Hvga 'how many'

Hvga itsadetiyyda?

How many years have past for you?

Hvga iga svgtā detsaha?

How many apples do you have?

Sample answers

Gedo detsado'a?

Hartwell dagwado'a.

What is your name?

Gedo dudo'a tsatsi?

Barbara dudo'a agitsi.

What is your father's name?

Gedo dudo'a tsadoda?

Doug dudo'a agidoda.

What is your mother's name?

Gatsv hinigilo'i?

Waynesville tsinigilo'i.

Where do you live?

Hvga itsadetiyyda?

Nvgsgo sogwu iyagwadetiyyda.

How old are you?