

Using “If”: Subjunctive/Conjunctive Forms

Amira Silver-Swartz

Observe the following chart of the suffixes for conjunctive form:

	Singular	Plural
First person	Stem + ane	Stem + enkwe
Second person	Stem + ane	Stem + ekwe
Third person	Stem +te	Stem + htite

Creating the Verb Stem

The stems are created by taking the present tense first person form of the verb (ex: n~~n~~tasuwi= I sing) and removing the first-person prefix (n~~n~~tasuwi = asuwi) and adding the suffixes as noted in the table above.

Intransitive Verbs:

Below is the conjugation of the intransitive form of "mits" (to eat). Generally, 1st person forms of verbs ending in "i", "e", "a" follow the pattern below.

Independent Form:

I eat: nemitsi

We (excl) eat: Nemitsihena

You eat: Kemitsi

We (incl) eat: Kemitsihena

He/she eats: mitsu

You all eat: Kemitsihemo

They eat: mitsuwak

Subjunctive Form:

If I eat: mitsiane

if we eat - mitsienkwe

If you eat: mitsiane

if you all eat - mitsièkwe

if he eats - mitsite

if they eat - mitsihtite

The third person form is not created from the stem of the third person present tense; instead, there is a uniform stem for all of the “if” conjugations that, with some irregular exceptions, is derived from the first person form.

Infinitive	“If he” form	I present form	He present form
* goes	Ate	Nta	E
*Exists	Ahpite	Ntapi	Ahpu
*Leaves	Alemskate	Ntalemska	Alemske
Lives	Lehelexete		
Loses	Ankilate		
Said	Luwete	Nteluwe	Luwe
Returns	Kwetkite	Nkwetki	kwetki
*Whistles	Chipuwete	Nchipuwete	Chipewe
*Sings	Asuwite	Ntasuwi	Asuu
*Dances	Kentkate	Nkentka	Kentke
*Eats	Mitsite	Nemitsi	Mitsu
Barks	Mikikete	Nemikike	mikike

Generally the third person singular conjugation becomes "eke" for verbs that end in “l” and x.

Ex: if he dies = ankeleke

This change does not apply to the conjugations of the first and second person singular forms of “I”-ending verbs

Full verb conjugations for “die”:

Independent Form

I die: ntankel

We (inc) die: ntankelhena

You die: ktankel

We(exc) die: ktankelhena

He dies: ankel

You all die: ktankelehemo

They die: ankeluk

Subjunctive Form

If I die: ankelane

If we die: ankelankwe

If you die: ankelane

If you all die: ankelekwe

If he dies: ankeleke

If they die: ankelhtite

Another exception is the verb “shenkix”, which adds an extra “in” to the stem, so that ‘If I lie down’ is conjugated as “shekixinane”.

Independent form:

I lie down: nshenkixi

You lie down: kshenkixi

He lies down: shenkixit

We (inc) lie down: nshenkixinhumena

we (exc) lie down: kshenkixinhumena

you all lie down: kshenkixihemo(?)

they lie down: shenkixinuk/shenkixiyok (?)

Subjunctive Form

If I lie down: shenkixinane

If you lie down: shenkixinane

If he/she lies down: shenkixinte (?)

If we lie down: shenkixinenkwe

If you all lie down shenkixinekwe

If they lie down: shenkixinhtite (?)

Besides the irregular exceptions, there are also slightly different endings for inanimate adjectival conjugations. These conjugations concern characteristics of **inanimate, third-person objects**.

In these cases, one adds “ke” to the stem ending:

Third-person inanimate (adjectival)	Stem+ke
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Examples:

If it exists: lateke

If it is good: weletke

If it is red: maxkete

If it is good weather: shelanteke

The exception to this rule seems to be verbs that end in “a”. In these cases the “e” on the end is deleted and the formula looks like this:

Third-person inanimate (adjectival)	Stem+k
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As in “If it fell” : penihelak

Transitive Inanimates

Here is the table for transitive inanimate verbs. Note that some of the conjugations differ than the intransitive verbs:

For a singular inanimate object:

	Singular	plural
First person	Stem + ane	Stem+ ankwe
Second person	Stem+ ane	Stem + enkwe
Third person	Stem (-m) + nke	Stem+ihtite

Example conjugations (for the verb *wichentam*: to help):

wichentam

if I help it - *wichëntàmane*

if we help it (we incl.) -

wichëntàmànkwe

if you help it - *wichëntàmàne*

if you people help it - *wichëntàmèkwe*

if he helps it - *wichëntànke*

if they help it - *wichëntàmihtite*

It's important to notice that in the case of third person, the stem, which has the traditional transitive inanimate "am" ending (as in *wichentam*, *pentam*, etc.) is shortened to just an "a" in order to avoid a "mn" pairing.

Remember that the stem is formed without any person-marking prefixes. Thus the stem for " if I help it" is "*wichentam*" even if "I help it" is "*newichentamen*" Also, the suffix is dropped.

Similarly, even though "he sees it" is "*wenemen*", "if he sees it" is "*nenke*"