

## Hortative

The hortative is the semantic equivalent to the imperative “do it”, but only occurs with 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person subjects, translating as “let me/us do it” or “let him/her/them do it”. A common example is *na $\underline{x}$ too.aat* “let’s go”. The semantic opposite of the hortative would be the admonitive, which translates as “let him/her not do it”. The admonitive however, is structurally very different from the hortative and will not be discussed here.

There are five main points to discuss regarding the structure of the hortative: 1) the classifier; 2) the conjugation prefix; 3) the aspect prefix *ga-*; 4) the verb stem, and; 5) an optional suffix. Each of these topics will be covered below in turn.

### Classifier

The hortative always requires the -I form of the classifier. Remember that -I classifiers are: *sa-*, *s-*, *sha-*, *sh-*, *la-*, *l-*, *ø-*, and *da-*. In the forms given in the table below, we see the classifiers (from top to bottom, given in bold): *da-*, *sa-*, *ø-*, and *l-*.

Table 1. Classifiers in the Hortative.

Clf	Hortative	English
<i>da-</i>	<i>a<math>\underline{x}</math>danaa</i>	“let him drink it”
<i>sa-</i>	<i>a<math>\underline{x}</math>saxook</i>	“let him dry it”
<i>ø-</i>	<i>a<math>\underline{g}</math>a<math>\underline{x}</math>aa</i>	“let him eat it”
<i>l-</i>	<i>a<math>\underline{n}</math>ga<math>\underline{l}</math>káa</i>	“let him gamble”

### Conjugation Prefix and Aspect Prefix *ga-*

The hortative is one of the forms that reveal which of the conjugation prefixes (*ø-*, *na-*, *ga-*, or *ga-*) a verb uses. The hortative requires the verb’s conjugation prefix as well as the aspect prefix *ga-*. Verbs that use the *na-* conjugation prefix then, will have both *na-* and *ga-* in the hortative; verbs that use the *ga-* conjugation prefix will have both *ga-* and *ga-* in the hortative, and so on. Because the hortative form requires both the verb’s regular conjugation prefix AND the aspect prefix *ga-*, there are a lot of prefix combinations to be aware of. Below is an example verb for each conjugation prefix, given first in the imperative (which will demonstrate the conjugation prefix belonging with the verb), and then in the hortative, (which will show the combination of conjugation prefix and aspect prefix *ga-*).

Table 2. Conjugation Prefixes and Aspect Prefix in the Hortative.

CP	Imperative	English	CP + AP	Hortative	English
<i>ø-</i>	<i>Idashúch!</i>	“Bathe!”	<i>ø-ga-</i>	<i>gadashooch</i>	“let him bathe”
<i>na-</i>	<i>Yéi inatí!</i>	“Be that way!”	<i>na-ga-</i>	<i>yéi ngatee</i>	“let him be that way”
<i>ga-</i>	<i>Gagaax!</i>	“Cry!”	<i>ga-ga-</i>	<i>gagagaax</i>	“let him cry”
<i>ga-</i>	<i>Galsháat!</i>	“Hold it!”	<i>ga-ga-</i>	<i>agaaxlasháat</i>	“let him hold it”

The combination of the aspect prefix *ga-* and each of the conjugation prefixes results in a number of different contractions, all influenced by the subject prefix and/or classifier which follow them. While some of these combinations will be highlighted here, please see the prefix combination charts for a complete list of possible contractions in each given environment. The prefix combination charts relevant to the hortative form will be *ga-* plus the conjugation prefix of the verb, since these are the prefixes required by the hortative. Specifically, the prefix combination charts that will display information for the hortative are: *ga-* (for *ø-* conjugation verbs); *na-ga-* (for *na-* conjugation verbs); *ga-ga-* (for *ga-* conjugation verbs); and *ga-ga-* (for *ga-* conjugation verbs).

#### First Person Singular Prefix Combinations

The common denominator for hortatives with a first person singular subject “I” is the presence of *ka-* which results from the combination of the aspect prefix *ga-* and the subject prefix *xa-*. Let’s look at example verbs for each of the conjugation prefixes. In the following table, CP stands for the verb’s conjugation prefix; AP represents the aspect prefix *ga-* which is required in the hortative; Subj stands for the subject prefix (in this case *xa-* “I”); the Combo column gives the result of combining the preceding prefixes; the Example column provides a concrete example of a Tlingit verb; and the English column gives the translation of the Tlingit verb form.

Table 3. First Person Singular Prefix Combinations in the Hortative.

CP	AP	Subj	Combo	Example	English
<i>ø- +</i>	<i>ga- +</i>	<i>xa- + =</i>	<i>ka-</i>	<i>Kaxaa.</i>	“Let me eat it.”
<i>na- +</i>	<i>ga- +</i>	<i>xa- + =</i>	<i>naka-</i>	<i>Nakagoot.</i>	“Let me go.”
<i>ga- +</i>	<i>ga- +</i>	<i>xa- + =</i>	<i>gaka-</i>	<i>Gakagwaal.</i>	“Let me beat it.”
<i>ga- +</i>	<i>ga- +</i>	<i>xa- + =</i>	<i>kaaka-</i>	<i>Kaakaxoox.</i>	“Let me call him.”

The first person singular subject prefix combinations in the hortative are fairly straightforward in that they are not affected by the classifiers. In other words, the above given combinations are consistent despite the rest of the verb word. This is not the case, however, for the other subject prefixes.

*First Person Plural Prefix Combinations*

The first person plural prefix combinations in the hortative are additionally influenced by the classifier. If the classifier has no vowel, then the subject prefix is *too-*; if the classifier has a vowel, then the subject prefix is shortened to *tu-*. In the table below, also note that the aspect prefix *ga-* becomes *x-* when adjacent to the subject prefix *too-/tu-*.

Table 4. First Person Plural Prefix Combinations in the Hortative.

CP	AP	Subj	Clf	Combo	Example	English
∅-+	<i>ga-</i> +	<i>too-</i> +	no vowel	<i>gato-</i>	<i>At gatooxaa.</i>	“Let’s eat.”
			vowel	<i>gatu-</i>	<i>Gatulatsík.</i>	“Let’s barbecue it.”
<i>na-</i> +	<i>ga-</i> +	<i>too-</i> +	no vowel	<i>na<sup>x</sup>too-</i>	<i>Na<sup>x</sup>too.aat.</i>	“Let’s go.”
			vowel	<i>na<sup>x</sup>tu-</i>	<i>Na<sup>x</sup>tudatóow.</i>	“Let’s read.”
<i>ga-</i> +	<i>ga-</i> +	<i>too-</i> +	no vowel	<i>ga<sup>x</sup>too-</i>	<i>Ga<sup>x</sup>toogwaal.</i>	“Let’s beat it.”
			vowel	<i>ga<sup>x</sup>tu-</i>	<i>Ga<sup>x</sup>tulak’éi.</i>	“Let’s improve it.”
<i>ga-</i> +	<i>ga-</i> +	<i>too-</i> +	no vowel	<i>ga<sup>a</sup><sup>x</sup>too-</i>	<i>Ga<sup>a</sup><sup>x</sup>too.éex’.</i>	“Let’s invite him.”
			vowel	<i>ga<sup>a</sup><sup>x</sup>tu-</i>	<i>Ga<sup>a</sup><sup>x</sup>tulagú.</i>	“Let’s wipe it.”

*Third Person Prefix Combinations – Intransitive Verbs*

A discussion of third person prefix combinations in the hortative must be divided into intransitive and transitive verbs. Let’s look at intransitive verbs (verbs with no object) first. As we saw above with the first person plural prefix combinations, the third person prefix combinations in the hortative are also influenced by the verb’s classifier. In the table below, notice that when the aspect prefix *ga-* is adjacent to a classifier containing a vowel, the vowel drops out of *ga-* and the *g-* becomes *x-*.

Table 5. Third Person Prefix Combinations in the Hortative – Intransitive Verbs.

CP	AP	Subj	Clf	Combo	Example	English
∅-+	<i>ga-</i> +	∅-+	no vowel	<i>ga-</i>	<i>At ga<sup>x</sup>aa.</i>	“Let him eat.”
			vowel	<i>ga-</i>	<i>At ga<sup>a</sup>anaa.</i>	“Let him drink.”
<i>na-</i> +	<i>ga-</i> +	∅-+	no vowel	<i>na<sup>a</sup>ga-</i>	<i>Na<sup>a</sup>gagoot.</i>	“Let him go.”
			vowel	<i>na<sup>x</sup>-</i>	<i>Na<sup>x</sup>datóow.</i>	“Let him read.”
<i>ga-</i> +	<i>ga-</i> +	∅-+	no vowel	<i>ga<sup>a</sup>ga-</i>	<i>Ga<sup>a</sup>ga<sup>a</sup>ax.</i>	“Let him cry.”
			vowel	<i>ga<sup>x</sup>-</i>	<i>Ga<sup>x</sup>la.éil’.</i>	“Let it be salty.”
<i>ga-</i> +	<i>ga-</i> +	∅-+	no vowel	<i>ga<sup>a</sup>ga-</i>	<i>Ga<sup>a</sup>gasháash.</i>	“Let it wear out.”
			vowel	<i>ga<sup>a</sup><sup>x</sup>-</i>	<i>Ga<sup>a</sup><sup>x</sup>daxéet’.</i>	“Let him sweep.”

*Third Person Prefix Combinations – Transitive Verbs With Third Person Object*

Remember that when both the subject and object of a transitive verb are third person “him/her/it/them”, the third person object pronoun *a-* is present. This object pronoun influences the prefix combinations, changing them from the above. The table below shows these prefix combinations. Note that again, the

verb's classifier influences the outcome. As seen above, the *ga-* aspect prefix becomes *x-* when adjacent to a classifier containing a vowel. Also note in the *ga-* conjugation prefix row that *ga-* drops its vowel and becomes *k-* when adjacent to the *ga-* aspect prefix.

Table 6. Third Person Prefix Combinations in the Hortative – Transitive Verbs.

Obj	CP	AP	Subj	Clf	Combo	Example	English
<i>a-+</i>	<i>ø-+</i>	<i>ga-+</i>	<i>ø-+</i>	no vowel	<i>aqa-</i>	<i>Aqaxaa.</i>	"Let him eat it."
				vowel	<i>ax-</i>	<i>Axdanaa.</i>	"Let him drink it."
<i>a-+</i>	<i>na-+</i>	<i>ga-+</i>	<i>ø-+</i>	no vowel	<i>anqa-</i>	<i>Anqaxaash.</i>	"Let him cut it."
				vowel	<i>anax-</i>	<i>Anaxsanook.</i>	"Let him carry her."
<i>a-+</i>	<i>ga-+</i>	<i>ga-+</i>	<i>ø-+</i>	no vowel	<i>akqa-</i>	<i>Akgagwaal.</i>	"Let him beat it."
				vowel	<i>agax-</i>	<i>Agaxlak'éi.</i>	"Let him improve it."
<i>a-+</i>	<i>ga-+</i>	<i>ga-+</i>	<i>ø-+</i>	no vowel	<i>aqaaga-</i>	<i>Aqaaga.éex'.</i>	"Let him invite her."
				vowel	<i>aqaax-</i>	<i>Aqaaxlagú.</i>	"Let him wipe it."

None of the above tables address the presence of a thematic prefix (*ka-*, *tu-*, *ji-*, *etc.*) in the hortative prefix combinations, although for some combinations, the thematic prefix does influence the outcome. However, these combinations follow the same logic as those discussed above and will not be described in detail here. Please see the relevant prefix combination charts for the effect of thematic prefixes on these contractions.

### Verb Stem

The verb stem in the hortative form will most often be the basic stem form. Remember that the basic stem form is the one given in the Leer-Edwards theme. This is the stem form that the negative perfective and negative future forms usually (but not always) use. Note in the table below how the verb stems are the same in the negative perfective and the hortative forms.

Table 7. Verb Stems in the Hortative

Neg. Perfective	English	Hortative	English
<i>tlél ax'awuwóos'</i>	s/he didn't ask him/her	<i>ax'anqawóos'</i>	let him/her ask him/her
<i>tlél awuhées'</i>	s/he didn't borrow it	<i>akqahées'</i>	let him/her borrow it
<i>tlél awuxaash</i>	s/he didn't cut it	<i>anqaxaash</i>	let him/her cut it
<i>tlél awushook</i>	s/he didn't laugh at it	<i>aqashook</i>	let him/her laugh at it

While the above is by far the most common verb stem pattern for the hortative, there are of course exceptions. One subgroup of verbs reveals a different, but consistent pattern. 0-conjugation verbs with open stems (end in a vowel) AND whose stems are short and high in the negative perfective always have long low stems in the hortative. The below examples illustrate this pattern.

Table 8. Verb Stems in the Hortative – 0-conjugation Verbs with Open Stems.

CP	Neg. Perfective	English	Hortative	English
ø-	<i>tlél awust'á</i>	s/he didn't warm it up	<i>a<sup>x</sup>sat'aa</i>	let him/her warm it up
ø-	<i>tlél wuda<u>ká</u></i>	s/he didn't sew	<i>a<u>g</u>akaa</i>	let him/her sew
ø-	<i>tlél yéi awusá</i>	s/he didn't name him/her/it that	<i>yéi a<u>g</u>asaa</i>	let him/her name him/her/it that
ø-	<i>tlél ayawus.há</i>	s/he didn't gather it	<i>aya<u>x</u>sahaa</i>	let him/her gather it
ø-	<i>tlél awu<u>xá</u></i>	s/he didn't eat it	<i>a<u>g</u>a<u>x</u>aa</i>	let him/her eat it

To reiterate, the defining features of the above verbs are that they 1) are 0-conjugation; 2) have open stems, and 3) have short, high stems in the negative perfective. Given these conditions, you can be certain that the hortative form of these verbs will have long, low stems.

In addition to the above, there are some 0-conjugation verbs with closed stems (those that end in a consonant) that have a long, low vowel in the negative perfective, but a short, high vowel in the hortative stem. Here are a few examples.

Table 9. Verb Stems in the Hortative – 0-conjugation Verbs with Closed Stems.

CP	Neg. Perfective	English	Hortative	English
ø-	<i>tlél akawus'et</i>	s/he didn't bandage it	<i>aka<u>g</u>as'it</i>	let him/her bandage it
ø-	<i>tlél awultseek</i>	s/he didn't barbecue it	<i>a<u>x</u>latsík</i>	let him/her barbecue it
ø-	<i>tlél akawuls'ook</i>	s/he didn't fry it	<i>aka<u>x</u>las'úk</i>	let him/her fry it

This however, is not the case for all 0-conjugation verbs with closed stems, and so this pattern, while worth noting, is not predictable, but must be learned for each verb individually.

### Hortative Suffix

Hortative forms take an optional suffix *-(y)i* or *-u*. The presence or absence of this suffix seems to be based entirely on speaker preference and/or style. For example, either of these forms would be considered correct: *yanḡaxeex / yanḡaxeexí* “let it happen”, as would either of these: *yéi kḡunḡanook / yéi kḡunḡanoogú* “let him/her do it”. The suffix is *-i* following most consonants. If the verb stem ends in an unrounded vowel (*a, e, i*), then *y* is inserted before the suffix *-i*, as in *aadé akanaxsaxaayí* “let him pour it out there.” The *-u* suffix is used for all verbs ending in *-w* preceded by a vowel, words ending in any form of *-k* or *-x* preceded by *-oo* or *-u*, and verbs ending in any form of *-k* or *-x* followed by *-w*. In this last case, drop the *w-* before adding the *-u* suffix. For example, *axlach'éix'w / axlach'éix'u* “let him get it dirty”. Whether *-i* or *-u*, the suffix will take the opposite tone as that of the verb stem. The rules for this suffix largely follow the same rules as the possessive suffix, as described in Unit 2 of *Intermediate Tlingit* (Dauenhauer & Dauenhauer, 2010 manuscript available). Please see this reference for an exhaustive description of the rules pertaining to this suffix.

It is important to note that for some verbs, speakers do not accept the suffix on the hortative form. A couple of examples follow. The asterisk (\*) preceding the forms below indicate that those forms are not acceptable to birth speakers of the language.

<i>kadashooch</i>	“let me bathe”
* <i>kadashoojí</i>	
<i>aḡa.óon</i>	“let him shoot it”
* <i>aḡa.óoni</i>	

Further research is necessary in order to determine whether there is a pattern to the acceptability of the hortative suffix or whether it is particular to each verb.

Finally, it should be noted that in natural speech, the hortative is often preceded by *ch'a* “just” and followed by *de(i)* “now”, translating as “just let him (verb) now”. These additional words often make the hortative sound much more natural. A couple of examples follow.

*Ch'a yéi yanḡakaa dei.* “Just let him say it now.”  
*Ch'a nḡagoot dei.* “Just let him go now.”