

Basic Nahuatl
Conversations
Phrases
Words

© 2008 Luis and Paula Garcia and Ho Anumpoli!

All rights reserved.

No part of this booklet or the forthcoming CD may be copied for any reason without the written permission of the authors.

This is community project assisted by Ho Anumpoli! and represents the collaboration of two calpullin: Calpulli Ehecatl and Calpulli Chalchiuhuitziln.

Ho Anumpoli! is a Tax Exempt, New Mexico educational organization.

316 ½ Columbia Dr. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Dedication

to the Aztec/Mexica people and all their descendants
and the danzantes recreating the dream

Acknowledgements

The following people have contributed to this pilot project.

Paula—female speaker, dialogs, and revisions (Calpulli Chalchiuhuitziln)

Erica Ocegueda—editing Spanish text (Calpulli Ehecatl)

Luis Garcia—translations (Spanish & Nahuatl), editing, male speaker (Calpulli Chalchiuhuitziln)

Mapitzmitl—editing Nahuatl text (Calpulli Ehecatl)

Padla Domingo Olivarez—Nahuatl language consultant from Cuentepec, Morelos,
Mexico

George Ann Gregory, Ph.D. Linguistic consultant and general editing (Calpulli Ehecatl)

Directions for Using the CD

The best way to begin learning Nahuatl is to listen to the CD every day for several weeks.

Do this before opening the booklet. This will allow you to become familiar with the sounds of the language and will help your pronunciation.

You do not need to try to repeat the words until you feel comfortable with the language. Listening over and over to the conversations before speaking is a natural way to learn a language.

Directions for Using the Booklet

You can use this booklet two ways.

First, you can work with a partner to recreate the scenes for each conversation.

Use the booklet like a script. Gather any items named in each scene to make it real for you. Take turns playing each part.

Do this with other people who are also learning basic Nahuatl until you feel comfortable with these basic conversations.

Second, you can use this booklet to begin reading and writing in Nahuatl. After you have learned a conversation, copy it onto a separate sheet of paper. Later, try to write the conversations as you listen to the CD.

Missing Nahuatl Terms

If there is no Nahuatl term supplied, use the Spanish. In some cases, Spanish terms and phrases have been borrowed into Nahuatl.

Pronunciation Key

Symbol	Sound
..a	As in father
..au	As in out
..c	/s/ before /e/ and /i/ as in set ; elsewhere /k/ as in cap
..ch	As in chew
..cu	/kw/ as in queen
..e	As in bet
..h	/h/ as in happy
..hu	/w/ as in wet
..i	As in machine
..l	/l/ as in lame
..m	/m/ as in more
..n	/n/ as in not
..o	As in or
..p	/p/ as in spoke
..qu	/k/ as in keep
..t	/t/ as in tone
..tl	This is pronounced by touching the back of the teeth with the tip of the tongue and releasing the air around the sides of the tongue. It is not pronounced at the tl in mettle .
..tz	/z/ as in pizza
..u	As in fool
..uh	/hw/ as in when
..x	As in shoe
..y	As in you
..z	/s/ as in sun

(Ref. Herrera, Fermin. (2004). *Nahuatl-English: English-Nahuatl (Aztec)*. New York: Hippocrene Books, Inc.

Basic Nahuatl Greetings and Introductions

Greetings/El Saludo/Tlapaloliztli

Speaker	English	Español	Nahuatl
1	Good day!	Buenos días.	Cualli tonalli.
2	Good day!	Buenos días.	Cualli tonalli.
1	How are you?	¿Cómo está(s)?	Quenin tica?
2	Very good, thanks! And you?	Muy bien, gracias. ¿Y tú (usted)?	Cualli Cualli, tlazohcamati. Ihuantehua' (tzin)?
1	I am good also, thanks!	Estoy bien también, gracias.	Cualli noihqui, tlazohcamati.

Alternates for extra practice

Time	English	Español	Nahuatl
Dawn to noon	Good morning!	¡Buenos días!	Cualli tlanequi.
Evening—to nightfall	Good evening!	¡Buenas tardes!	Cualli teotlac.
Night	Good night!	¡Buenas noches!	Cualli yohualli.

Alternates for extra practice

Speaker	English	Español	Nahuatl
origination	Not well! I am sick.	Mal. Estoy enfermo.	Amo cualli. Nicocoya.
response	I'm sorry to hear that.	Lo siento mucho.	Xinechtlapopolhui.
response	That's too bad!	Que pena.	
origination	So-so! OK! (neutral)	Así así. / Más o menos.	Zan quen, zan quen.
response	What's up?/Why just OK?	¿Qué te pasa?/ ¿Por qué solo bien nada más?	Tleica? / Tleica zan cualli?

Introductions

Speaker	English	Español	Nahuatl
1	What is your name?	¿Cómo se (te) llama(s)?	Tlein motoca?
2	My name is	Me llamo	Nehuatl notoca....
1	Nice to meet you.	Mucho gusto en conocerte.	Nicempaqui nimitzixmati.
2	Nice to meet you also.	El gusto es mío.	Noihqui nicempaqui.

Speaker	English	Español	Nahuatl
1	How old are you?	¿Cuántos años tiene(s)?	Quexqui xihuitl ticpia?
2	I am ...(years old).	Tengoaños.	Nehuatl nicpia...xihuitl.

Speaker	English	Español	Nahuatl
1	Where are you from?	¿De dónde eres?	Canin mochan?
2	I am from...	Soy de...	Nehuatl nichanti...
1	Where is that?	¿Dónde está eso?	Canin?
2	It's (direction) from here.	Queda en el (dirección cardinal).	(direction) ca.
2	Its in (country)	Está en (país).	(country) ca.
2	It's (distance) from here.	Queda (distancia) de aquí.	(distance) huehca' ca.
2	It's there (pointing).	Por allá (señalando).	Ompa.

Directions

Compass points	English	Español	Nahuatl
N	North	Norte	Mictlampa
S	South	Sur	Huitztlampa
E	East	Oriente	Tlaneztlampa
W	West	Poniente	Cihuatlampa

Distance/age

	English	Español	Nahuatl
	Many	Mucho	Miec
1	One	Uno/un	Ce(ntetl)
2	Two	Dos	Ome
3	Three	Tres	Yei
4	Four	Cuatro	Nahui
5	Five	Cinco	Macuilli
6	Six	Seis	Chichuace
7	Seven	Siete	Chicome
8	Eight	Ocho	Chicuei
9	Nine	Nueve	Chicnahui
10	Ten	Diez	Matlactli
	A few	Uno(a)s poco(a)s	Tepitzin
	Miles	Millas	
	Kilometers	Kilómetros	
	Blocks	Cuadras	
	Houses	Casas	Caltin

See appendix for larger numbers

The Home/ In Chantli

Here are some possible conversations.

Speaker	English	Spanish	Nahuatl
1	Good day!	Buenos días.	Cualli tonalli.
2	Good day!	Buenos días.	Cualli tonalli.
1	How are you?	¿Cómo está(s)?	Quenin tica?
2	Very good, thanks! And you?	Muy bien, gracias. ¿Y tú (usted)?	Cualli cualli, tlazohcamati. Ihuantehua' (tzin)?
1	I am good also, thanks!	Estoy bien también, gracias.	Cualli noihsqui, tlazohcamati.

At the dinner table

Speaker	English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Host	Come and eat	Venga a comer.	Xihualla titlacuaz.
Guest	Thanks!	¡Gracias!	Tlazohcamati!
Host	Would you like some food?	¿Gustas comida?	Ticnequi tepitzin tlacualli?
Guest	Yes, thanks!	¡Si, gracias!	Quema, tlazohcamati!
Guest	No, thanks!	¡No gracias!	Ahmo, tlazohcamati!
Host	Did you enjoy it?	¿Te gustó? ¿Sabroso?	Huelic?
Guest	It was delicious	Muy sabroso.	Cencah huelic
Guest	What is this called?	¿Qué es?	Tlein itoca?
Guest	How do you make this?	¿Cómo se hace?	Quenin in tiquechihua?
Host	You take some... and mix it with... /cook it for...	Un poco de... mezclado con ... /cocido por...	Tepitzin... xitlaneloa ica... xitlehuaqui...
Guest	It's late. I need to go. Thanks for the meal.	Ya es tarde. Necesito ir. Gracias por la comida.	Ye tlayohuac. Nicpia niah. Tlazohcamati in tlacualli.
Host	You are welcome.	De nada.	Ahmo tleinica.

Foods (Tlakualli)

English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Chicken	Pollo	Pionacatl
Beef	Res	Cuacuehnacatl
Pork	Puerco	Pitzonacatl
Fish	Pescado	Michnacatl
Shrimp	Camaron	Chacalin
Beans	Frijoles	Yetl
Rice	Arroz	Arroz
Mushrooms	Hongos	Nanacatl
Onions	Cebolla	Xonacatl
Salad	Ensalada	Quilitl
Ice cream	Helado	Helado
Milk	Leche	Chichihualayotl
Water	Agua	Atl
Soda	Refresco	Refresco
Tea	Te	Xihuiatlapozonilli
Tortilla (corn)	Tortilla de maiz	Tlaxcalli
Cake	Pastel	Pastel
Candy	Dulce	Tzopelic
Sweet bread	Pan dulce	Papantzin tzopelic
Corn flour	Harina de maiz	Pinolli
Wheat flour	Harina (de trigo)	Yoltextli caxtillan tlaolli
Sugar	Azúcar	Tlazopeliloni
Salt	Sal	Iztatl
Oil	Aceite	Chiahuacayotl
Chile	Chile	Chilli
Chocolate	Chocolate	Xocoatl

Kitchen items (Tlakualchihualoyan)

English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Kitchen	Cocina	Tlacualchihualoyan
Refrigerator	Refrigerador	Tepuztlacualcehuiloni
Stove	Estufa	Tleamanalli
Table	Mesa	Ahcopechtli

Chair	Silla	Icpalli
Plate	Plato	Caxitl /Caxpechtli
Bowl	Tazón	Caxitl
Cup	Taza	Tlahuanoni
Glass	Vaso	Tlahuantli
Knife	Cuchillo	Tezoaloni
Spoon	Cuchara	Xomalli
Fork	Tenedor	Tenedor
Baking Pan	Charola	Tepuzcomitl
Pot	Olla	Comitl/xoctli
Skillet	Sartén	Tepuzcomitl
spatula	Espátula	Cuauhneloani

Furniture

English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Couch	Sofá	
Bed(s)	Cama(s)	Tlapechtli
Dresser(s)	Cómoda	
Shelf/shelves	Estante	
Lamp/light	Lámpara	Tlahuilli

Asking Directions

Speaker	English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Guest	Excuse me. Where is the bathroom?	¿Disculpe, dónde está el baño?	Mixpantzinco, caninca in tlapiazoti?
Host	It is....	Está... ca.
	To the right.	A la derecha	Mayecantli
	To the left	A la izquierda	Mapochtli
	The red door.	La puerta roja.	In quiahuachichiltic
	The green door.	La puerta verde.	In quiahuaxoxoctic
	The yellow door.	La puerta amarilla.	In quiahuakoztic
	The blue door.	La puerta azul.	In quiahuamatlaltic
	The black door	La puerta negra.	In quiahuatliltic
	The white door.	La puerta blanca.	In quiahuaiztac
	Up the stairs.	Sube la escalera.	Xitlehco in tlamamatlatl.
	In the back.	Detrás.	Tlaicampa.
Guest	Thanks!	¡Gracias!	Tlazohcamati!

The Market/In Tlanquiztli

Beginning a Conversation

Speaker	English	Spanish	Nahuatl
1	Good day!	Buenos días.	Cualli tonalli.
2	Good day!	Buenos días.	Cualli tonalli.
1	How are you?	¿Como está(s)?	Quenin tica?
2	Very good, thanks! And you?	Muy bien, gracias. ¿Y tu (usted)?	Cualli Cualli, tlazohcamati. Ihuantehua' (tzin)?
1	I am good also, thanks!	Estoy bien también, gracias.	Cualli noihqui, tlazohcamati.

Buying

Speaker	English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Buyer	How much is...?	¿Cuentos cuesta...?	Quexquich...?
Seller	(number) peso(s)	() peso(s)	() peso(s)
Buyer	I want (number).	Quiero (number).	Ni nequi
Seller	OK!	¡Gracias!	Tlazohcamati!

Alternate dialog

Speaker	English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Buyer	How much is...?	¿Cuento cuesta...?	Quexquich...?
Seller	(number) peso(s)	() peso(s)	() peso(s)
Buyer	That's too much.	¡Mucho!	Miat!
Seller	You can have it for (number) peso(so)	(Will generally come back with another price)	(Will generally come back with another price)
Buyer	Thanks! I'll take it.	Gracia, yo lo quiero.	Tlazohcamati, nitlanequi.
Buyer	No, thanks!	¡No, gracias!	Ahmo, tlazohcamati!

Alternate Phrases

Speaker	English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Buyer	Do you have any...?	¿Tiene(s) un(a)...?	Tic pia...?
Seller	Yes!/No!	¡Sí!/¡No!	Quema!/Ahmo!

Possible Items

English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Barrettes	Pasador para el cabello	
Blanket	Manta	Cuachtli
Blouse	Blusa	Huipilli
Bracelet	Brazalete	Maquiztli
Dance costume	Traje	
Dress	Vestido	Cihuatlatlatquitli
Earrings	Zarcillos	Nacazpilcayotl
Feather	Pluma	Ihuitl
Necklace	Gargantilla	Cozcatl
Pants	Pantalones	
Pottery	Alferería	
Ring	Anillo	
Sandals	Huaraches	Catli
Shawl	Manta	Pahyo
Shirt	Camisa	Coton
Shoes	Zapatos	Catli
Skirt	Falda	Cuetl

Food Items

English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Fruit	Frutas	Xochihcualli
Orange	Naranja	Lalanyol
Pineapple	Piña	Matzahitli
Melon	Melon	
Meat	Carne	Nacatl
Tamale	Tamale	Tamalli
Taco	Taco	
Onion	Cebolla	Xonacatl
Mushroom	Seta	nanacatl
Banana	Plátano	xochncualli
Potato	Papa	
Bottled water	Botella de agua	
Club soda	Aqua mineral	
Coffee	Café	Acohcayotl
Napkin	Servilleta	Pahyo

For extra practice

Keyword	English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Bathroom	Where is a bathroom?	¿Donde está el baño?	Canin axixcalli?
Bank	Where is a bank?	¿Donde está el banco?	Canin tominpialcalli?
ATM	Where is an ATM?		
Hospital	Where is a hospital?	¿Donde está le hospital?	Canin cocoxcacalli?
Policeman	Where is a policeman?	¿Donde está un policía?	Canin tlatecpanalpixqui?
Phone	Where is a phone?	¿Donde está el telefono?	Canin hueca tlahtolli?
Restaurant	Where is a restaurant?	¿Donde está el restaurante?	Canin tlacualoyan?
Pharmacy	Where is a pharmacy?	¿Donde está la farmacia?	Canin pahcalli?

Possible responses

English	Spanish	Nahuatl
It's (direction) from here.	Queda en el (dirección cardinal).	(direction) Ca.
It's (distance) from here.	Queda (distancia) de aqui.	(distance) huehca' ca.
It's there.	Por allá (señalando).	Ompa.

Directions

Compass points	English	Spanish	Nahuatl
N	North	Norte	Mictlampa
S	South	Sur	Huitztlampa
E	East	Este	Tlaneztlampa/Tlauhcampa
W	West	Oeste	Cihuatlampa

Distance

English	Spanish	Nahuatl
Many	Mucho	Miec

One	Uno/un	Ce(ntetl)
Two	Dos	Ome
Three	Tres	Yei
Four	Cuatro	Nahui
Five	Cinco	Macuilli
Six	Seis	Chichuace
Seven	Siete	Chicome
Eight	Ocho	Chicyei
Nine	Nueve	Chicnahui
Ten	Diez	Matlactli
A few	Uno(a)s poco(a)s	Tepitzin
Miles	Millas	
Kilometers	Kilometros	
Blocks	Cuadras	
Houses	Casas	Caltin

Aztec dance terms

English	Spanish	Classical Nahuatl
Aztec dance	Danza azteca	Mitotiliztli
Dancer	Danzante	Mitotiani
Dance leader	Jefe de danza	Tlayancanqui
Dance elder	Capitán de danza	Yaotachqui
Chant/song	Alabanza	Teocuicatl
Altar	Altar	Momoztli
Flowers	Flores	Xochimeh
Drum	Tambor	Panhuehuetl
Two toned log drum	Tambor de dos tonos	Teponaztli
Reed flute	Flauta de Carrizo	Tlapitzalli
Seed leggings	Cascabeles/huesos de fraile	Chachayotl/ayoyotl
Metal bells	Cascabeles	Coyolli
Loin cloth	Tapa rabo	Maxtlatl
Men's long shirt	Vestido	Xicolli
Cape	Capa	Tilmahtli
Skirt	Falda	Cueitl
Woman's cover	Quexqueme	Quexquemitl
Blouse	Blusa	Huipilli
Headdress	Penacho/diadema	Copilli
Obsidian edged club	Macana	Mac ^a ahuitl
Arrow	Jaras/flechas	Mitl
Shield	Escudo	Chimalli
Banner/flag	Bandera/estandarte	Pamitl/pantli
Feather	Pluma	Ihuitli/quetzalli
Rattle	Sonaja/maracas	Ayacaxtli
Incense attendant	Malinche de copal	Tlapopochihuani
Incense	Incienso	Copalli
Incense holder	Sahumador/sahumerio	Popoxcaxitl
Sandals	Sandalias	Cactli
Ceremony	Ceremonia	Iluitl
Heaven	Cielo	Iluicatl
Headband	Paleacate	Ixkuaimekatl

Nahuatl numbers (Base 20 count)

Numeral	Nahuatl
1	Ce
2	Ome
3	Yei
4	Nahui
5	Macuilli
6	Chicuace
7	Chicome
8	Chikuei
9	Chicnahui
10	Mahtlactli
11	Mahtlactli huan ce/mahtlactli once
12	Mahtlactli huan ome/mahtlactli omome
13	Mahtlactli huan yei/mahtlactli omei
14	Mahtlactli huan nahui/mahtlactli onnihui
15	Caxtolli
16	Caxtolli huan ce/caxtolli once
17	Caxtolli huan ome/ caxtolli omome
18	Caxtolli huan yei /caxtolli omei
19	Caxtolli haun nahui / caxtolli onnahui
20	Cempohualli
21	Cempohualli huan ce/cempohualli once
22	Cempohualli huan ome /cempohualli omome
23	Cempohualli huan yei /cempohualli omei
24	Cempohualli huan nahui/cempohualli onnahui
25	Cempohualli huan macuilli /cempohualli ommacuilli
26	Cempohualli huan chicuace /cempohualli onchicuace
27	Cempohualli huan chicome /cempohualli onchicome
28	Cempohualli huan chicuei /cempohualli onchicuei
29	Cempohualli huan chicanahui/cempohualli onchicunahui
30	Cempohualli huan mahtlactli /cempohualli ommahtlactili
40	Ompohualli
50	Ompohualli huan mahtlactli /ompohualli ommahtlactili
60	Epohualli
70	Epohualli huan mahtlactli / epohualli ommahtlactli
80	Nauhpohualli
90	Nauhpohualli huan mahtlactli /nauhpohualli ommahtlactli

100	Macuilpohualli
200	Mahtlacpohualli
300	Caxtolpohualli
400	Centzontli
500	Centzontli huan macuilpohualli/centzontli ommacuilpohualli
600	Centzontli huan mahtlacpohualli/centzontli ommahtlacpohualli
700	Centzontli huan caxtolpohualli /centzontli oncaxtolpohualli
800	Ometzontli /ontzontli
900	Ometzontli huan macuilpohualli/ontzontli ommacuilpohualli
1000	Ometzontli huan mahtlacpohualli /ontzontli ommacuilpohualli
2000	Macuiltzontli

Language Survey

Now that you have completed these materials help us create the next edition. Answer these questions.

1. Would you like some grammar included? Yes/no
2. Would you like to learn some songs in Nahuatl? Yes/no
3. 3. Would you be interested in taking Nahuatl classes that included immersion situations? Yes. no
4. Make suggestions for other scenes.

5. Is there anything else that you would like to suggest?

Return this page to Luis Garcia or email your answers to <hoanumpoli@yahoo.com>