

Lesson 2:7

Core concept: “FOR”

For such a small word, you’d think that expressing “for” in Northern Chinook Jargon would be simple. Not so!

First off, let’s think about what “for” means. Fundamentally, it signals *the purpose* of something. That’s easy enough, right?

But, let me use a couple of movie titles here:

Isn’t there a difference between the *kinds* of purposes in “A Man *for* All Seasons” and “A Man *for* Burning”?

Seasons are a thing (a noun), but burning is an action (a verb).

And in fact, it turns out that Chinook makes us express these with different words for “for”.

Kopa is “for” a noun

When you’re talking about anything that’s “for” a noun (a person / place / thing), you say **kopa**:

Naika mash sitkum tala kopa iht sno.

I send half dollar for one year

“I’ll send 50 cents for a year (of the newspaper).”

-- Patrick Felix, Neskonlith, BC

Pi maika heilo mamook dleit kopa okok naika tikki.

but you not do right for this I want

“But you didn’t do the right thing for what I wanted.”

Nouns include the pronouns for “we”, “you”, “them”, etc.:

...poos naika peyei okok Whait-man mamook kopa nesaika.

when I pay that white-man work for us

“...when I paid that White guy that was working for us.”

-- unknown writer, Salmon Arm, BC

Kopitt okok syutsum kopa maika.

only this new for you

“There’s only this news for you.”

-- Pete Nhinaskrit, Alkali Lake, BC

Nouns also include names of places, people, etc.:

Alta Looi yaka haiyoo mamook kopa...Toma tilihum.
now Louie he much work for... Thomma family
“Lately Louie’s been busy working for the Thomma family.”
-- William Andrew, Head (of the) Lake, BC

Nesaika tikki patlach kopa Kamloops Tloosh Wawa nesaika neim.
we want give to Kamloops Good Word our name
“We want to give our names (to subscribe) for the Kamloops Good Word.”
-- John the policeman and Alec Sampson, Lillooet, BC

Poos is “for” verb-ing

Now, when the purpose that you’re talking about is an action (a verb), you express “for” / “(in order to)” / “in order that” with the word **poos**. (You can look back at Lesson 2:4, for more about this little HYPOTHETICAL word.)

Nesaika haiyoo tumtum alta poos nesaika iskum okok Kamloops peipa.
we much think now in.order.that we take that Kamloops paper
“We’ve been really planning lately for us to subscribe to that Kamloops paper.”
-- John the policeman and Alec Sampson, Lillooet, BC

Okok tloochman yaka wawa kopa naika poos naika wawa kopa maika
that woman she say to me for me say to you
“That lady asked me to ask you”

poos maika mash yaka peipa kopa Alkalai-Leik.
for you send her paper to Alkali-Lake
“to send her paper to Alkali Lake.”
-- William Waspulawh, Canoe Creek, BC

A wrinkle: (SILENT) is “for” motion with a purpose

But, verbs of motion, like “go” and “come”, are followed by the silent “for” (silent “in order to”), with a verb being the purpose of the motion:

Yaka tlatawa Ø swim kopa kreek.
she go in.order.to swim in creek
“She went (to go) swimming in the creek.”
-- Chief Emile Timnaskrit, Canoe Creek, BC

Tl'oonas tlaska wawa, ikta-mamook okok lipleit chako Ø nanich nesaika?
maybe they say, what-make this priest come in.order.to see us
“Folks might ask, ‘Why is this priest coming to visit us?’”
-- Jean-Baptiste, Sahhalkum, BC

This motion for a purpose formation can sometimes have the feeling of “come on and...” or “go ahead and...”:

...chako (Ø) patlach kopa naika tanas-book.
come in.order.to give to me little-book
“...come on and give me a booklet.”
-- Baptiste Simon, Little (Shuswap) Lake, BC

One motion verb that you probably *won't* find followed by a purpose is **kooli**, because **kooli** basically means “to wander around, to move around”, without any purpose!

But, not all verbs are verbs...

Sometimes a fundamentally verby idea like **mamook-peipa** “to write a letter” can be used as a noun, “writing”. When you have this type of usage (“for doing...”), you have to follow the rule for nouns instead, and use **kopa** (instead of the verbal **poos**):

Kopa mamook-peipa, nesaika mamook-sitkum okok neim kanawei.
for make-letter, we make-half this name all
“For letter-writing, we shorten all of these names (of months).”
-- Kamloops Wawa #14[b]

Nawitka, haiyas-leili naika leisi kopa mamook-peipa kopa maika.
truly, very-long.time I too.lazy for make-letter to you
“It’s true, for a long time I’ve been too lazy for writing to you.”
-- unknown writer, Salmon Arm, BC

It’s helpful to know that the verb word that follows **kopa** in this nouny usage is usually **mamook**.

Exercises 2:7

1 **Naika mash okok tanas-peipa kopa maika.**
I send this note KOPA you
-- Michel, Soda Creek,

2 **Maika tikki poos tilihum tlaska aiyak peyei tlaska peipa.**
you want HYPOTHETICAL people they soon pay.for their newspaper
-- Michel, Soda Creek, BC

- 3 **Heilo naika tl'ap chikamin kopa okok wawa weet.**
not I receive money KOPA that advertised wheat
 -- Etienne Shilhowtkin, Shuswap, BC
- 4 **Tloosh maika aiyak chako (Ø) mamook-kumtuks kopa nesaika.**
please you soon come (Ø) let-know to us
 -- Charlie Wells, Port Douglas, BC
- 5 **Kopa Per Lejun okok peipa.**
KOPA Father Le.Jeune this letter.
 -- Charlie Melmorice, Sugarcane, BC
- 6 **Haiyoo man mitlait kopa mamook.**
many man be.here KOPA work
 -- August, Enderby, BC
- 7 **T'loonas Piyerr yaka tlahowyum kopa mamook-peipa.**
maybe Pierre he indisposed KOPA make-writing
 -- Marianne (and Pierre) Leon, location unknown, BC
- 8 **Naika tloochman heilo mitlait chikamin poos yaka tlatwa kopa Kamloops.**
my wife not have money HYPOTHETICAL she go to Kamloops
 -- August, Salmon Arm, BC
- 9 **Kanawei-tilihum patlach kopa yaka.**
every-body contribute KOPA him.
 -- August, Salmon Arm, BC
- 10 **Naika tl'ap maika peipa kopa Fraswa Shilpahan.**
I receive your letter KOPA François Shilpahan
 -- Jean-Baptiste, Sahhaltkum, BC
- 11 **Iht-ih...t'loonas yaka tlatawa (Ø) nanich masaika.**
some... maybe "they" go (Ø) see you.folks
 -- Johnny Peter, Clinton, BC
- 12 **Heilo naika wawa poos yaka wawa kopa maika kopa okok chikamin.**
not I say so.that he ask to you KOPA that money
 -- Chief Johnny Chillaheetza, Nicola Lake, BC

Tips for Southern speakers 2:7

The differences we've just explained are very important in the Northern Dialect.

Unlike Southern ways of talking, there's no **poos** "for" a purpose noun, so you'd sound very strange to Northern ears if you said things like ***pus-ikta*** or ***pus naika***. We have to say **kopa ikta** ("for what" / "why"), **kopa naika** ("for me"), et cetera.

(And so of course, the North also doesn't have a compound noun like a ***pus-ikta-wawa*** for "a question". The very modern Southern noun expression, ***nayka t'u?an pus-ikta-wawa*** ("I have a question") is more complicated than our traditional Northern way of just using a verb to say **Nayka tikki wawa (poos)...** ("I want to ask (whether)...") or **Nayka tikki kumtuks (poos)...** ("I want to know (whether)...").

This also explains why Northerners don't combine **poos** + an adverb to make idioms like Southern ***pus-kwansəm*** to mean "forever", or ***pus-k'həltəs*** to express "for nothing; in vain; uselessly". In fact, the really interesting thing here is that we just say plain **kultus**, and **kwanisum**, to mean these things in the North!