Iontstha'shòn:'a

An introduction to nouns in Onkwehonwehnéha'.

Glossary of Terms

Noun Stem - The first letter of a Noun Root. There are 5-7 Noun Stems in Onkwehonwehnéha'. The Noun Stem will determine which group of pronouns to apply to the noun.

Noun Root - The part of a word (noun) that is used when incorporating the noun.

Pronoun - A unit of language that conveys the person associated with the word. Ie. Me, you, he, she, etc

Derivational Noun - A noun that was originally a verb.

Nominalizer - A unit of language attached to the end of a word in order to turn it into a noun.

Natural Noun - A unit of language that only exists as a noun (as opposed to a Derivational Noun). Often considered very old nouns and are things found in nature or as a natural necessity of existence.

Suffix - A unit of language attached at the end, or back, of a word.

In this lesson…

- What Are Noun Stems?
- Identifying a Noun Stem
- Finding a Noun Root
- Natural Nous
- Derivative Nouns & Nominalizers

What Are Noun Stems?

A noun is a person, place, or thing. In Onkwehonwehnéha', there are 5 (or 7, depending on how you choose to classify them) possible 'stem groups' that a noun could belong to. It is important to be able to identify the stem of a noun, as this will determine which pronoun you will attach to the noun in order to conjugate it. The noun stems are...

Noun Stems

C-Stem

A-Stem

I-Stem

E/En-Stem

O/On-Stem

Noun Stems

Most Frequent

The most common noun stems are:

C-Stem

A-Stem

Less Frequent

In decreasing order of frequency, are:

I-Stem

E/En-Stem

O/On-Stem (there are only a handful of these)

Noun Stems

As they are the most frequently occurring noun stems, we will be looking at identifying C-Stem and A-Stem nouns today.

C-Stem

C-Stem is an abbreviation for Consonant-Stem. This means that the stem of the noun will be a consonant. However, we must be able to identify that consonant in a word, as this is where the Noun Root will begin.

C-Stem nouns will begin with either "Ka-" or "O-".

To identify the Consonant Stem of the noun, simply look at the letter *after* these.

Example: Kahiatónhsera (*paper*) -> Remove the "Ka-", the Consonant-Stem is 'h'.

A-Stem

Next, we will look at identifying A-Stem nouns. Fortunately, A-Stem nouns are much easier. They (mostly) all begin with the letter "A", and nothing needs to be removed to identify the stem. Meaning, that the Root of the noun will begin at the initial letter A.

Noun Roots

Now that we know how to find the Noun Stem, we can now find the Noun Roots. It is important to be able to find a Noun Root, as this is the part of the word that is used when counting, possessing, incorporating, etc. After finding the Noun Stem, to find the Noun Root we simply remove the last letter* of the word, and the Noun Root is what is left.

Example: Kahiatónhsera -> Remove the 'ka-' to find the Consonant-Stem, '-h-'. Now remove the final letter, '-a'. The Noun Root is '-hiatonhser-'.

*Note: In Onkwehonwehnéha, the nasal sounds 'On' and 'En' are considered one letter/sound, and must be removed as a whole unit.

C-Stem

Let's Learn Some Nouns

Kanónhsa

Kanónhsa *(House)* → Remove the "Ka-" and the following letter, "n" is the noun's Consonant Stem. Remove the final letter "-a", leaving the Noun Root "-nonhs-".

Ó:nenhste'

Ó:nenhste' *(Corn)* → Remove the "O-" and the following letter, "n" is the noun's Consonant Stem. Remove the final letter "-e", leaving the Noun Root -nenhst-.

Kákhwa

Kákhwa *(Food)* → Remove the "Ka-" and the following letter, "k" is the noun's Consonant Stem. Remove the final letter "-a", leaving the Noun Root "-khw-"

Ó:kwire

Ó:kwire *(Tree)* → Remove the "O-" and the following letter, "k" is the noun's Consonant Stem. Remove the final letter "-e", leaving the Noun Root "-kwir-".

A-Stem

Let's Learn Some Nouns

À:there

À:there *(Basket)* → Begins with the Noun Stem "A". Remove the final letter "-e", leaving the Noun Root "-a'ther-".

À:ria

À:ria *(Hook)* → Begins with the Noun Stem "A". Remove the final letter "-a", leaving the Noun Root "-ahri-".

À:share

À:share *(Knife)* → Begins with the Noun Stem "A". Remove the final letter "-e", leaving the Noun Root "-a'shar-".

Áhsire

Áhsire *(Blanket)* → Begins with the Noun Stem "A". Remove the final letter "-e", leaving the Noun Root "-ahsir-".

Natural Nouns vs. Derivational Nouns & Nominalizers

So far, we have only looked at "Natural Nouns". These are nouns that occur in nature, or are often considered to be very old nouns. With these nouns, nothing needs to be attached to the noun when conjugating.

However, there are another group of nouns that are derived from verbs, and require something called a "Nominalizer" at the end of the word, or a suffix. This just means that you attach something to transform it from a verb into a noun.

Derivational Nouns & Nominalizers

Nominalizers are represented by the following suffixes (attached at the back of the word):

-Htshera

-Hsera

-Ta

-Hkwa

Let's look at some examples! See if you can identify the stem while we're at it!

Nominalizers

Let's Learn Some Nouns

Áhta(hkwa')

Áhta *(Shoes)* -> Ahtá**hkwa.** → Begins with the Noun Stem "A". Remove the final letter "-a", leaving the Noun Root "-ahtahkw-".

Kátshe(`:ta')

Kátshe *(Bottle)* → Katshè:**ta.** Remove the "Ka-" and the following letter "t" is the noun's Consonant Stem. Remove the final letter "-a", leaving the Noun Root "-tshe't-"

Akià:tawi(htshera)

Akià:tawi *(Shirt/Jacket)* → Akia'tawí**htshera.** Begins with the Noun Stem "A". Remove the final letter "-a", leaving the Noun Root "-akia'tawihtsher-"

Kaia'tón:ni(hsera)

Kaia'tón:ni *(Doll)* → Kaia'tonní**hsera.** Remove the "Ka-" and the following letter "i" is the noun's Consonant Stem. Remove the final letter "-a", leaving the Noun Root "-ia'tonnihser-"

Conclusion

In this lesson, we learned what Noun Stems are, how to identify them, and some commonly used nouns. In the next lesson, we will learn how to start doing things with nouns, such as counting! In the meantime, try to remember these nouns, their stems, and roots. Or see if you can think of any nouns that you'd know and try to identify the stem!