

Chapter 6. Asking Questions

Up to this point, we've only learned how to make statements in Kawaiisu. But there is another important thing you'll want to do: Ask other people questions so that you can find out things you want to know.

Asking “yes” and “no” questions

Here are some examples of questions with which the answer will typically be *hü'ü* ‘yes’ or *yuwaat* ‘no’ :

Iva'an tugubiyaav wüzünvaanaakün?

‘Do I put it up above here?’

Su'un, pihwepügüdü?

‘Did he have a wife?’

Kwidataaz papel hinigeenaam kapaan?

‘You got paper in the toilet?’

The word order for these basic questions is the same as what you would find in statements. The main difference is that the intonation at the end of the sentence goes up – that is, you end the sentence with a higher voice than you started with.

Asking information questions

In information questions, the question word usually comes at the beginning of the sentence, just like in English. Here is a table of the question words followed by examples for each.

han	who
hin(i)	what
hagaan, hagaana	where
hagarowa, hagaroo	to where
haganig	why
hana'ok(a), han'ok	when
haga	how
hagavoi	how much, how many

han ‘who’

Han yookivaadiika tühüi?

‘Who’s going to carry the deer down?’

Han su'un?

Who is that?

Su'uvois imi, han putsugunaam iva'an?

'So, do you know who's here?'

hin(i) 'what'

Hin inivaanaamü?

'What are you going to do?'

Hin inidüm su'um, pagidüm?

'What are they doing, talking?'

Hin kapaan?

'What's inside?'

Hin haganikweeneen?

'What happened to her?'

Im putsugudiik hin abiginüni?

'Do you understand what I said?'

hagaan, hagaana 'where'

Muguuvaanaam, hagaan su'urü, tav moskineeka?

'Think about it, where's that, the sun is rising?' (literally, 'Where does the sun rise?')

Hagaan karüpügüd su'un?

'Where did he live?'

Hagaan su'un togowa?" meenün.

'Where's the snake?, I said.'

Hagaan su'ur hivipün?

'Where's my drink?'

hagarowa, hagaroo 'to where'

Hagaroo tam pagivaadüm?

'Where are we going to walk?'

Hagarookweeneen?

'Where is he going?'

Hagarookweetooriina?

'I wonder where he went?'

haganig 'why'

Haganig samaninaam, Wo'ovü?
'Why are you doing that, Worm?'

Haganig im abiginaam inaroo?
'Why are you talking to him like that?'

Yuwaat putsuguneek haganig.
'We didn't understand why.'

hana'ok(a), han'ok 'when'

Hana'oka yu'ugweepügüd su'un?
'When did she die?'

Han'ok pihirkweeneena?
'When did he get married?'

Han'ok pidüvaanaam?
'When are you coming?'

haga 'how'

Haga pidünaam iva'an?
'How did you get here?'

Haga kusineerunaak pavi?
'How did you cook the meat?'

Haga hüveeztiinaam?
'How did you lift this?'

hagavoi 'how much, how many'

Hagavoi tiip imi?
'How old were you?'

Hagavoi müüz shi'in?
'How many months old is she?' (for a baby)

Hagavoi nowiganaakaam patsaam?
'How much did you pay for your shoes?'

Hagavoi uuv shi'id?
'What day is this?' (literally, 'How much day is this?')