

Chapter 7. Adding meaning to verbs

In this chapter you will see how you can add meaning to the way things are happening like “slowly” or “softly” or when things happen like “sometimes” and “yesterday” and “twice.” These words that modify verbs are known collectively as “adverbs.”

Describing how things happen

Here is a table of adverbs that describe how things happen followed by example sentences.

aavatse’e	slowly, softly
ataasin	slightly, in a small way
hü’ü	good, well
muts	really, a lot
ohowa	loud, strong
pitanüs	in a hurry
yuhuzagai	a little bit, slowly, softly

aavatse’e slowly, softly

Aavatse’e kusineruneen.

He cooked slowly.

ataasin slightly, in a small way

Ataasin pagineen.

She walks slowly. or She walks carefully.

Ataasin abigineen.

He talked softly. or He talked slowly.

Ataasin mo’ikweeneen.

He got a little bit drunk.

Ataasin yaganeen.

He cried a little bit.

hü’ü good, well

Hü’ü ka’avaad nü’ü uuv.

I’ll eat well today!

Hü’ü meenaam.

You spoke well!

mut really, a lot

Muts yagineen.

He cried really hard.

Hugirikweeneek mut pagikweeneen.

Toward evening, she walked a lot.

Muts pezekineen.

She was really hollering.

Muts taku'ikweeneen Betty.

Betty got really embarrassed.

ohowa loud, strong

Ohowa abigineen.

He was talking loud.

Ohowa nukineen ta'nipüz.

The man was running hard/fast.

pitanüs in a hurry

Pitanüs pagivaanaam.

Walk fast.

Pitanüs abigineen nugarowa.

He was talking fast to me.

This can be used on its own to mean “hurry up!”

Pitanüs!

Hurry up!

yuhuzagai a little bit, slowly, softly

Yuhuzagai abigineen.

He spoke slowly. or He spoke softly.

Yuhuzagai hin'iv kaavaanaam.

Sing something slowly.

Yuhuzagai makina manikweeneek.

The car was moving slowly.

Yuhuzagai pagineen.

He was walking carefully. (maybe tiptoeing)

Describing when or how often things happen

Here is a table of adverbs that describe when and how often things happen followed by example sentences.

küow(e)	yesterday
maasübish uusübish	finished
nahagaan	sometimes
pikai	a little while, later
su'uvois	and then..., and so...
sübinok	always
te'ekas	tomorrow
uus(u)	already, finished
uusüs(a)	long ago
uutsikus (uuchikus)	in the morning
uuv(i)	now, today
uwitowa	for a long time

küow(e) yesterday

Paginün küow.

I walked yesterday.

Havineek küow uween.

It was lying there yesterday.

Abigineen küowe.

He talked yesterday.

maasübish finished

uusübish

Maasübish mapa'nikweedü.

This is the last spanking.

Uusübish abigivaad.

That's all I'm going to say. (literally, 'I'll finish talking.')

nahagaan sometimes

Nahagaan su'una nookineen ka'apütü.

Sometimes he brings food.

pikai a little while, later

Pikai shi'idü shitu'ivaad.

It'll get cold later.

Pikai uuskineek nüvüvi.

Later the snow came.

Pikai su'un Betty meeneen ...

After awhile Betty said ...

su'uvois and then..., and so...

This is one of the most common words in Kawaiisu stories. It helps people keep track of how events unfold, and sometimes speakers use it as a placeholder while they're deciding what to say next (kind of like "um..." in English).

Su'uvois mama'un ku'uneentüni.

Then my mom grabbed me.

Papeen su'uvois meeneen ...

Then his father said ...

Su'uvois shi'ina pagikweeneen.

And so she was walking.

sübinok always

Piyün sübinok nanoos karüneen.

My mother was always home alone.

Sübinok samaninümi.

We always did that.

Sübinok su'un kusinerupügüdü.

She always cooked.

te'ekas tomorrow

Te'ekas tawa inivaad owa tivi.

Tomorrow we're going to gather pinyon nuts.

Nü'ü te'ekas pagikweevaad kahne-vidoo.

I'm going to walk back to the house tomorrow.

uus(u) already, finished

Tawa uus inineek.

We already did that.

Uus tugukweeneek.

It got dark. [perhaps literally 'It was already dark.']

Ku'uvaadiin uus.

He's about to catch him.

Uus chipikweenaam kapaan po'o.

They climbed in the water.

Uus uutsikus inineen kahne-va'an.

He got home in the morning.

You can also use uus on its own to mean "Okay, that's it, all done!"

uusüs(a) long ago

Sü'ür muts uusüs wi'ipün.

It was long ago I was born.

Muts uusüsa Süna'av pagikweeneen.

Long ago Coyote was walking.

Su'umü uusüsa taanim muts hivinaamü.

A long time ago men used to drink a lot.

uutsikus (uuchikus) in the morning

Uus uutsikus inineen kahne-va'an.

He got home in the morning.

Uuchikus hüveezinaam eepizh puguz.

In the morning the little boy and the dog got up.

uuv(i) now, today

Hü'ü ka'avaad nü'ü uuv!

I'll eat well today!

Shi'in wi'inaan uuv!

She was born today!

uwitowa for a long time

Muts uwitowa uuwaneek.

It rained for a long time.

Uwitowa kusineruvaanaakaam yühür.

You're going to cook the beans for a long time.

How many times

Here are adverbs that describe how many times things happen followed by example sentences.

suuts once

wahats twice

pahets three times

Suuts kupavdügweeneen.

He fell down once.

Suuts abigineen

He spoke once.

Wahats abigineen

He spoke twice.

Pahets kaaneen suui kaap.

He sang one song three times.

Others

Here are adverbs that didn't fit in any of the sections above followed by example sentences.

mumizh (mumbizh)	barely, a little bit
muu	just
nanoos	alone
tüvishüb	true, right
tüvizh	really, truly

mumizh (mumbizh) barely, a little bit

Mumizh ininaam.

You're barely doing something. (cleaning, for example)

Mumizh samaninaam?
Did they really do that? (lit., 'They barely did that?')

muu just
Muu kiyaaneen.
He was just laughing.
Muu po'okineen.
She just kept on writing.

nanoos alone
Nanoos kartüneen.
He lived alone.
Nanoos kaaneen.
He sang by himself.
Hivineen nanoos.
He drank by himself.

tüvishüb true, right
Tüvishüb meenaam?
Is that right? (literally, 'Did you speak truly?')
Tüvishüb su'un abigineen?
Is he telling the truth? (literally, 'Is he speaking truly?')

This word can be used on its own when you want to tell someone you agree with what they just said.

tüvizh really, truly
Tüvizh im marookweevaad?
Are you really going that way?
Tüvizh abigineen.
He was telling the truth. (literally, 'He was speaking truly.')

This word can be used on its own when you want to verify something you just heard:

Tüvizh?
Really?