



## GRAMMAR NOTES – CONVERSATION: WHO DID YOU TALK TO?

The word *ǰudǰudbid* ‘speak/talk to someone’ breaks down as follows: *ǰudǰud-bi-d*. The first part of this word is *ǰudǰud* ‘speak, talk’. The *-bi-* means that the action is done ‘in relation to someone/something’ (‘RELATION’). When *-bi-* is used, it is always followed by the *-d* ‘control’ suffix covered in previous grammar lessons (Note, even though we said in a previous lesson that *-d* and *-dxʷ* are interchangeable, *-dxʷ* never occurs with *-bi-*). When *-bid* is added to *ǰudǰud*, *ǰudǰud* ‘speak, talk’ becomes *ǰudǰudbid* ‘speak/talk **in relation to someone**’, or more exactly, ‘speak/talk **to someone**’. Look at sentences (1a and b) and notice how *ǰudǰud* contrasts in meaning with *ǰudǰudbid*:

(1) (a) ǰuǰudǰud čəd.

VERB	DOER
ǰu-ǰudǰud	čəd.
CENTRAL-speak	I
‘I spoke.’ ‘I gave a speech.’	

(b) ǰuǰudǰudbid čəd ∅.

VERB	DOER	RECEIVER
ǰu-ǰudǰud- <b>bi</b> -d	čəd	∅.
CENTRAL-speak- <b>RELATION</b> -CTL	I	someone/her/him
‘I spoke/talked <b>to</b> someone/her/him.’ ‘I gave a speech to someone/him/her/them.’		

In (1a), no one is specifically mentioned as a receiver. The doer is simply speaking and no one is specifically receiving the action. In (1b), even though there is no receiver mentioned, the action is done to ‘someone’, ‘her’, ‘him’ or ‘them’.



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When we want to mention the person being spoken to, verbs that end in *-bid* follow the exact same rules as verbs that end in *-d*. Notice in (2) that the receiver is in a *ti*-phrase (in bold for clarity):

- (2) ʔuχ̣udχ̣udbid čəd **ti John.**

VERB	DOER	RECIEVER		
ʔu-χ̣udχ̣ud-bi-d		čəd	<b>ti</b>	<b>John</b>
CENTRAL-speak-RELATION-CTL	I		<b>the</b>	<b>John</b>
'I spoke/talked to <b>John.</b> '				

Look at (3) and notice that the question 'Who did you talk to?' is formed:

- (3) g<sup>w</sup>at k<sup>w</sup>(i) adsuχ̣udχ̣udbid.

### QUESTION-

#### WORD k<sup>w</sup>i ad-s-VERB

g <sup>w</sup> at	k <sup>w</sup> (i)	ad-s-u-χ̣udχ̣ud-bi-d
who	k <sup>w</sup> i	your-NMZR-CENTRAL-speak-RELATION-CTL
'Who did you talk/speak to?'		
Literally, 'Who was your talking/speaking to?'		

This is the same construction as the other question-word constructions learned so far in previous lessons rewritten in (4a and b).

- (4) (a) g<sup>w</sup>at k<sup>w</sup>(i) adsulaʔbdx<sup>w</sup>.

### QUESTION-

#### WORD k<sup>w</sup>i ad-s-VERB

g <sup>w</sup> at	k <sup>w</sup> (i)	ad-s-ʔu-laʔb-dx <sup>w</sup>
who	k <sup>w</sup> i	your-NMZR-CENTRAL-see-LIMITED.CTL
'Who did you happen to/manage to/accidentally see?'		
Literally, 'Who was your seeing (by accident/manage to/happen to)?'		



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(b) čad k<sup>w</sup>(i) adsʔuχ<sup>w</sup>.

**QUESTION-**

**WORD k<sup>w</sup>i**     **ad-s-VERB**

čad                    k<sup>w</sup>(i)     ad-s-ʔuχ<sup>w</sup>

where                k<sup>w</sup>i     your-NMZR-go

‘Where did you go?’

Literally, ‘Where was your going?’

This same construction can also occur with question-words *χid* ‘how’ and *stab* ‘what’ (5).

(5) (a) ʔəsχid k<sup>w</sup>(i) adscut, \_\_\_\_.

**QUESTION-**

**WORD k<sup>w</sup>i**     **ad-s-VERB**

ʔəs-χid                k<sup>w</sup>(i)     ad-s-cut

STATE-**how**        k<sup>w</sup>i     your-NMZR-say

‘**How** do you say \_\_\_\_?’

Literally, ‘**How** is your saying, \_\_\_\_?’

(b) **stab** k<sup>w</sup>(i) adsucut.

**QUESTION-**

**WORD k<sup>w</sup>i**     **ad-s-VERB**

**stab**                    k<sup>w</sup>i     ad-s-u-cut

**What**                 k<sup>w</sup>i     your-NMZR-CENTRAL-say

‘**What** did you say?’

Literally, ‘**What** was your saying?’



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The question-word construction in (5b) can be altered slightly to ask, ‘What did **she/he/it** say?’ by removing that *ad-* ‘your’ prefix from the verb and adding *-s* ‘his, hers, its’ to the end of the verb (6) (the *-s* suffix is in bold for clarity).

(6) stab k<sup>w</sup>i sucuts.

### QUESTION-

WORD k<sup>w</sup>i s-VERB-s

stab k<sup>w</sup>i s-u-cut-s

What k<sup>w</sup>i NMZR-CENTRAL-say-**his/hers/its**

‘What did **she/he/it** say?’

Literally, ‘What is/was **her/his/its** saying?’

The *-s* ‘her, his, its’ is a suffix and is not to be confused with the *s-* ‘nominalizer’ prefix.

the *s-* prefix and *-s* suffix are two different affixes.

We will continue to learn more about how to ask questions in later lessons.