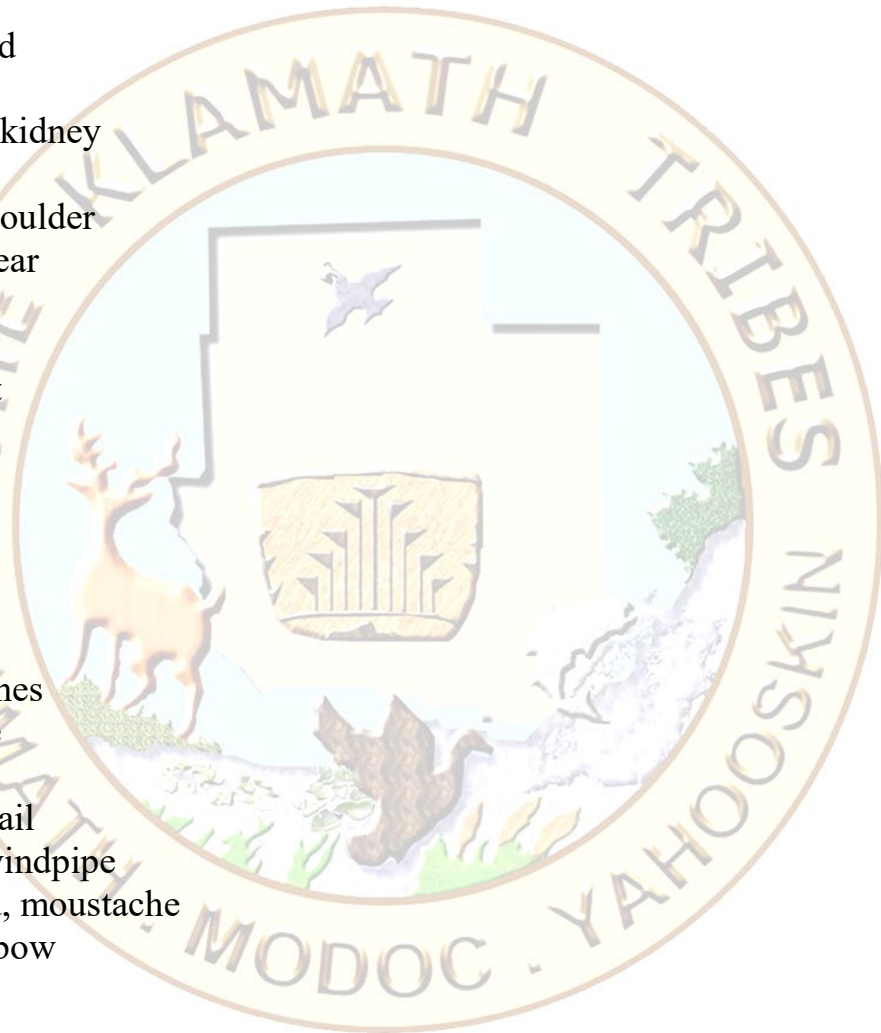Vocabulary

The section which follows presents some of the basic words utilized by elders in the Klamath and Modoc Tribes. You are encouraged to continue practicing accurate pronunciation as you memorize this beginning vocabulary. This list is merely an introduction to the larger vocabulary used by the Klamath-Modoc elders, much of which was compiled by M. A. R. Barker in his Klamath Dictionary.

People sn'eweets = woman, wife
sn'eweeck'a = little woman, girl
weew'ans = women
weleeqs = old woman
hiswaqs = man, male, husband
hiswaqk'a = boy
hihaswaqs = men
moc'aak = old man
gmocatk = old person
cik'aa =
c'aaGi = little boy
c'aaqy'aak =
c'ilwas = unmarried bachelor
tsim'angatk = youth, teenager
n'isq'aak = little girl (7-11)
siw?aak = girl (12-18)
t'at'aksni = children
m'ok'aak = baby
ptisap = father
pk'isap = mother
wnak = son
beep = daughter
s?aaMaks = relative

Body Parts ec'as = breast, milk
baawac = tongue
balla = liver
bosakl'as = hip, thigh
c'elks = skin
c'ey = buttocks
c'ooks = leg

datGlamni = middle finger
del?is = face
dot = tooth
Geec'o = chin
jeGle = blood
k'ek'eec = vein
laalas = rib
lak'ii = forehead
laq = hair
lel'amy'eeqs = kidney
lolp = eye
Lap'akLas = shoulder
mom'oowac = ear
niis = neck
nkas = stomach
n'awqs = throat
n'ep = hand
n'os = head
pat'oo = cheek
pec = foot
psis = nose
qeemat = back
q'ay'e = intestines
q'ol'anc = knee
sdaynas = heart
sdeqs = fingernail
sootGnoots = windpipe
sm'ooq = beard, moustache
solt'aqk'is = elbow
som = mouth
stakl'inc = heel
tq'op'oo = thumb
t'osooqs = lung
waw'aaks = eye mucus
weq = arm
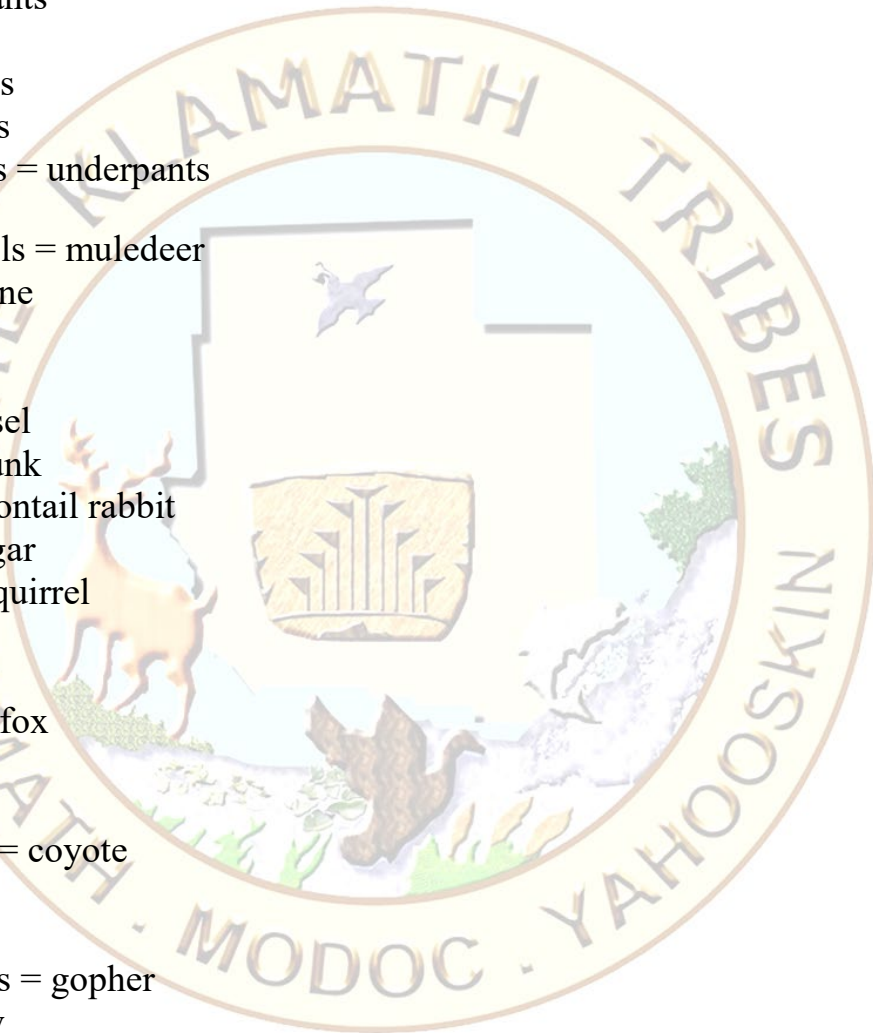wew'aqt'as = braids
wso = chest

w'aw'aaqs = ear
YoqYaqs = armpit

Clothes = solootis c'oyees = hat
gabo = coat
coLiis = shirt
q'aylaalaps = pants
Goqs = dress
sdiksooy = shoes
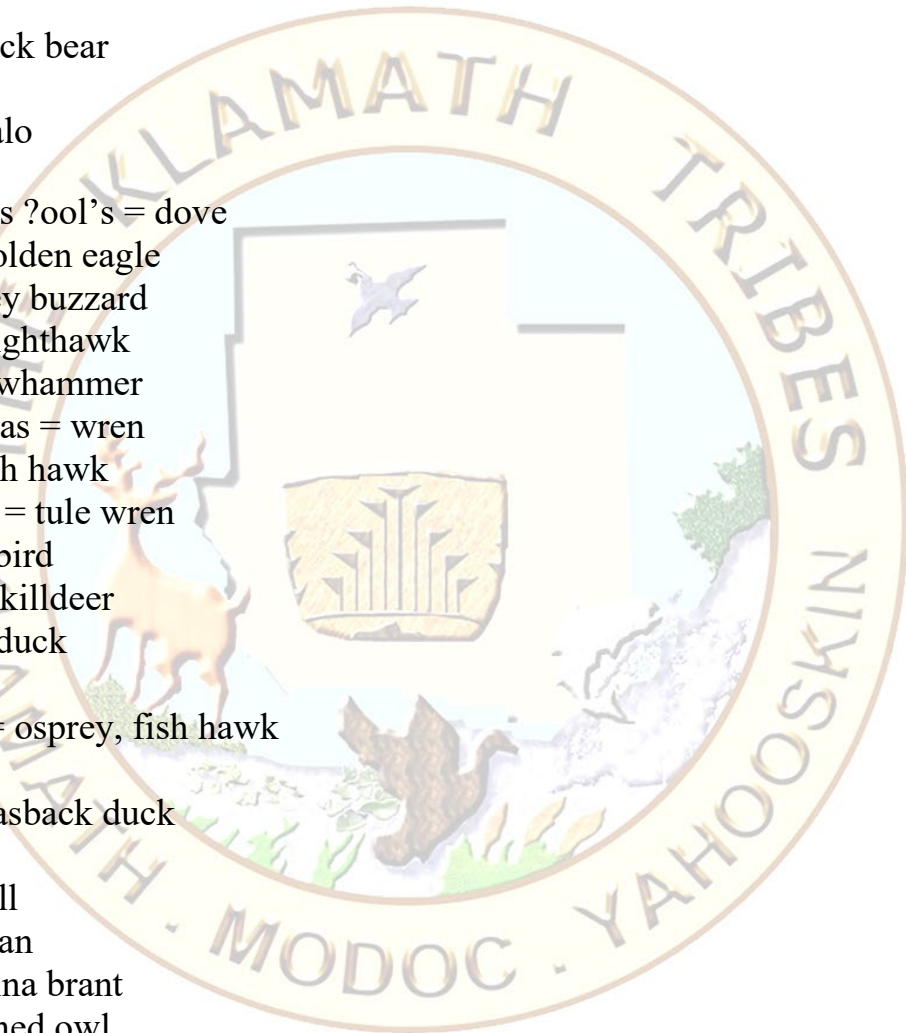sdeegins = socks
montant solootis = underpants

Animals baacools = muledeer
ceelis = porcupine
cew = antelope
c'aasis = skunk
c'asgaay = weasel
c'iLas = chipmunk
c'wak'na = cottontail rabbit
daaslaats = cougar
giw?as = pine squirrel
goso = pig
Gewcis = wolf
heyhey = silver fox
kay = rabbit
kols = badger
k'oly'aa (w'as) = coyote
lilhanks = deer
loq = grizzly
monaa dadamnis = gopher
moosmos = cow
moq'ooga = mouse
mosmas = black-tailed deer
moy = woodchuck
peep = pine marten
p'oosis = cat
pom = beaver
qenqan = grey squirrel
qliip'a = mink

qoc'aa = woodrat
w'an = red fox
wac = horse
wac'aak = dog
wacgin'a = raccoon
wasla = squirrel
wil'e = fawn
wit'eem = black bear
won = elk
yohoo = buffalo

Birds = c'ik'as ?ool's = dove
blaywaas = golden eagle
cways = turkey buzzard
c'asGiips = nighthawk
c'ews = yellowhammer
c'ic'iiLoLoo?as = wren
c'ikdo = marsh hawk
c'ikt'iit'i?aak = tule wren
c'oqs = blackbird
c'wiididiks = killdeer
jaqnos = fish duck
dapial = loon
dokdokw'as = osprey, fish hawk
Gaaq = crow
Golaa = canvasback duck
Gos = swan
kol?a = seagull
komal = pelican
l'akl'ak = China brant
mok'as = horned owl
newl'inc = flicker
p'is?as = hummingbird
q'ahq'aah?as = great blue heron
q'eec = tern
q'iliijiks = diver duck
q'lidiis = sandhill crane
s?ooqs = blue crane

sdasdool?aks = California quail
sk'aWk'os = red headed woodpecker
sqol'e = meadowlark
sqol'oos = turkey
sw'iiqs = chick, duckling
t'it'aq = swallow
t'ohoos = mudhen
t'waq'as = green heron
tmo = grouse
tsGeewtsGeews = bluejay
Weeqs = mallard duck
wisGaq = robin
yawq'al = bald eagle

Fish = kyem ?oc'aaks = fish the Modoc catch
c'iyaal's = salmon
c'waam = mullet (Chasmistes luxatus)
yeen = mullet (Catostomus labiatus)
hist'yis = mullet
q'apdo = mullet (Chasmistes brevirostris)
Gawi = eels
k'occ'a = bullhead, gudgeon
meYas = trout
nGaas = rainbow trout
nooqs?am = dried fish (cooked)
qamals = dried fish (in sun)
q'odaks = chub
?alhaq = whale

Other Denizens of the Water Gleec'o = clam
Goy'a = crawfish
kow'e = frog
sdaqbonks = leech
weGet'as = a small green frog

Reptiles l'ooks = a kind of brown lizard
ngak = turtle
qii?a = lizard
q?is = rattlesnake

wamnaks = bull-snake
wisink = snake

Bugs c'iNeeks = mosquito
dlol = cricket
jigacigas = potato bug
joyoobiks = water skater
k'ot'as = lice
k'oYas = bed bug
manq = housefly
qoqdinks = dragonfly
q'aljijiks = spider
q'iMaac = ant
sk'ins = yellow jacket
t'aht'aah?as = grasshopper

Plants ?iwam = huckleberry
baa = bull pine
boc'o = wild celery leaves
qoqoodam = wild celery root
boqs = camas root
cak = serviceberry
cwa = wild potato
c'moLaq = bearberries
dmolo = wild plum
dwicq'as = chokecherries
gees = ipos
Goos = ponderosa pine
jaGlo = sagebrush
joyjiks = strawberries
kson = grass, hay
lmenc?am = elephant ear fungus
lal'il'ilaqs?am = elderberries
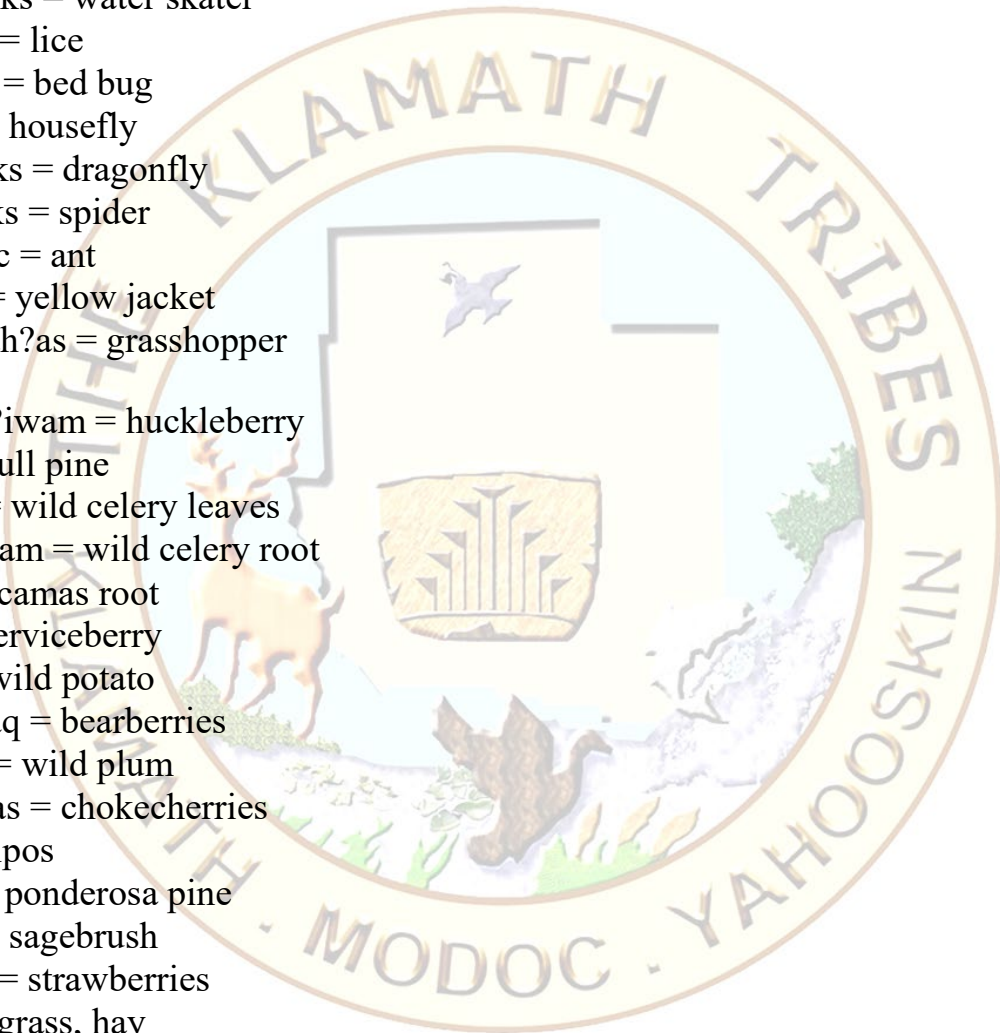LoLooyLoys?am = gooseberries
may = tule
popas = cattail
qdeeLo'am = sugar pine tree
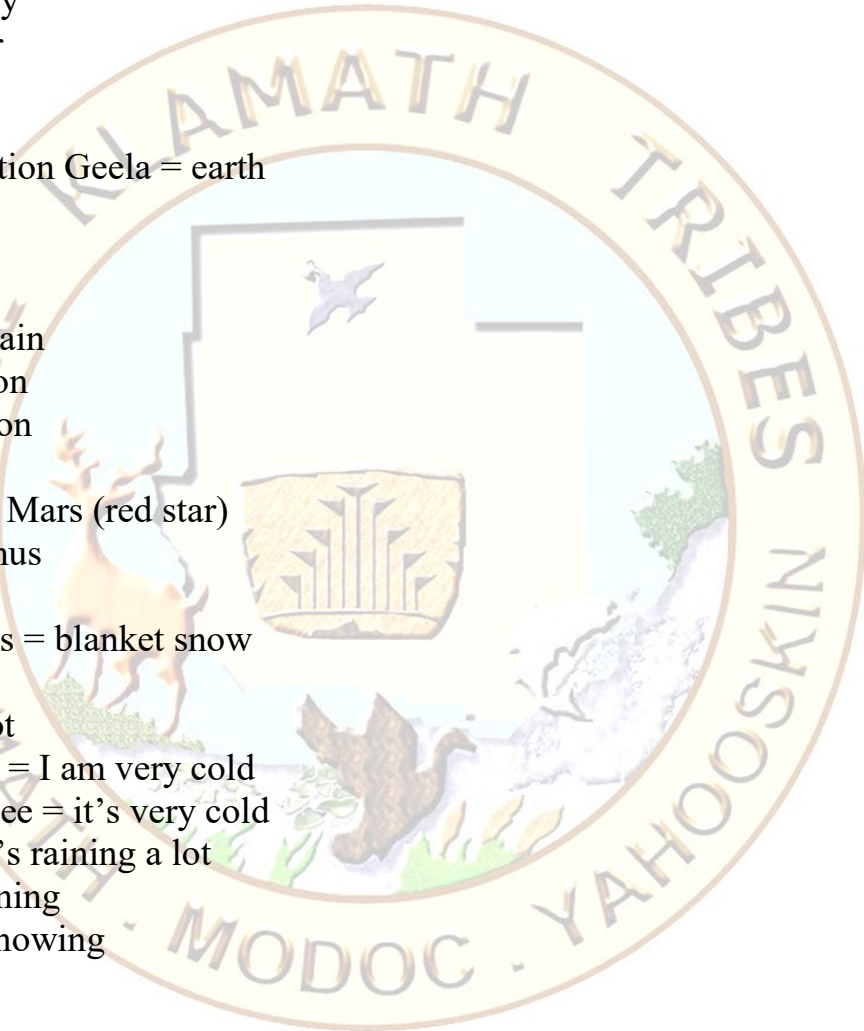qlisam = oak tree
q'eelo = juniper

bolWi = white sage brush
q'laac = swampberries
totanks?am = blackberries
waako = lodgepole pine
wibal = alder
wial = aspen
wokas = pond lily
wolwans = cedar
yaas = willow

The Larger Creation Geela = earth
Galoo = sky
?ambo = water
GoGe = river
y'ayn'a = mountain
s?aba = sun, moon
wGawGos = moon
qcool = star
taktakl'i qcool = Mars (red star)
pse gegnis = Venus
Glaws = sand
c'oms?am skodas = blanket snow
Gelbaks = hot
Gelpk'a = it's hot
moo ?an Gattk'a = I am very cold
q'a ?a Gatdaks gee = it's very cold
moo qdooca = it's raining a lot
qdooca = it's raining
kena gee = it's snowing
keys = snow

The Directions lobiitdal' = east, toward the east yaamat = north
tGalam = west moowat = south

Some Place Names ?iWLaLLoon?a = Klamath Falls
mbosaksawaas = Chiloquin (means flint place)
niiLaks = Barclay Springs (means sunrise)
GawamGeeni = Deep spring place
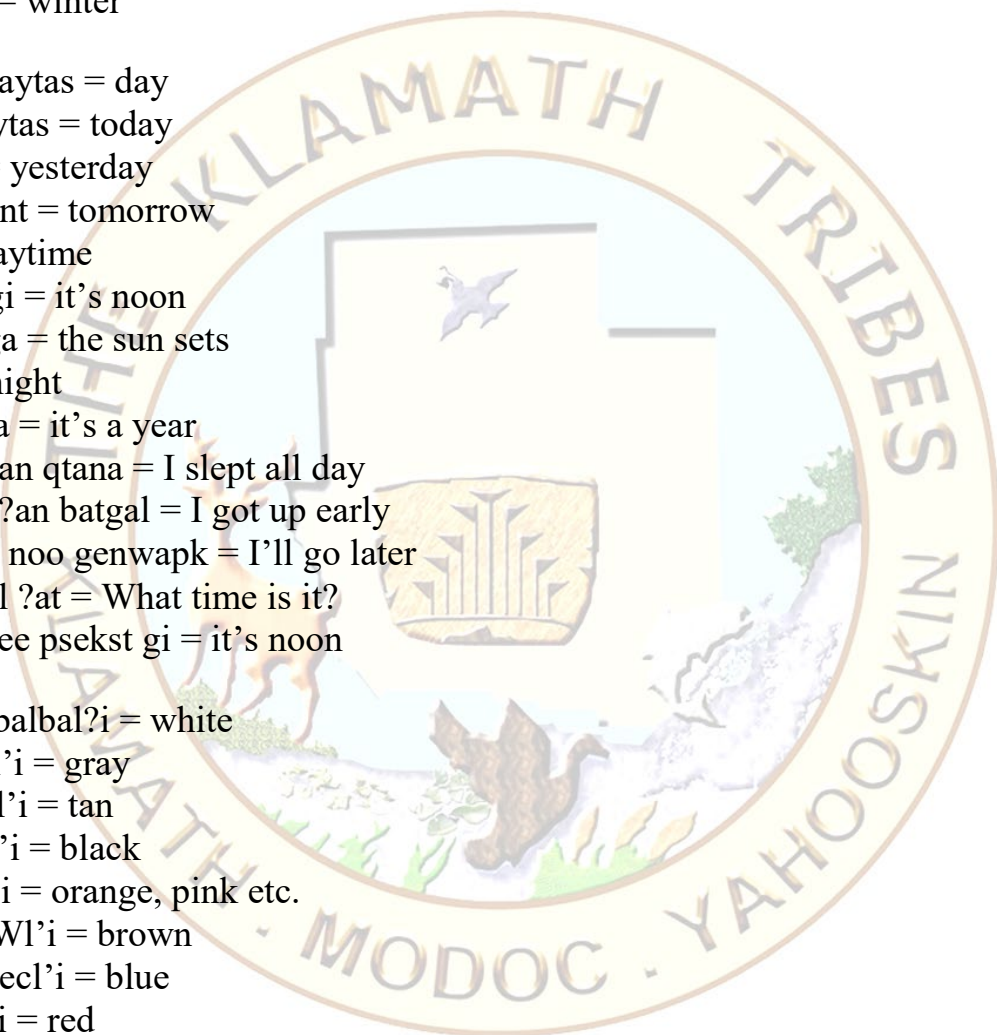?ews = Klamath Lake (also means lake)

giiwas = Crater Lake
hisc'akwalee?as = Mount Thielsen

Seasons sqo = spring
s?aLam = fall
padaa = summer
loldam = winter

Time waytas = day
gen waytas = today
?onaa = yesterday
mboosant = tomorrow
pse = daytime
psekst gi = it's noon
dinneega = the sun sets
psin = night
?iLool'a = it's a year
wayta ?an qtana = I slept all day
?onaak ?an batgal = I got up early
?on'cee noo genwapk = I'll go later
doos dal ?at = What time is it?
?at ?a gee psekst gi = it's noon

Colors balbal?i = white
beqbeql'i = gray
boqboql'i = tan
bosbosl'i = black
joyjoyl'i = orange, pink etc.
kaWkaWl'i = brown
m'ecm'ecl'i = blue
taktakl'i = red
woyGanks = green, grass

Numbers Naas = one
Nacksept = six
laap = two
lapksept = seven
ndan = three
ndanksept =eight

woniip = four
Nacq'eeks = nine
ton'ip = five
tewn'ip = ten