



SUG  
WACHU:  
SALUDAI

- Greetings
- Asking questions
- The Verb kai
- The ending -mi
- Word Order
- Kamká?
- Saying Goodbye
- Spelling vs. Pronunciation

## VOCABULARY

GREETINGS:	
Puangi (PUAN-gi)	Greeting ( Abbreviation of "How has your day been?")
Allisia (aLLIsia)	Response to greeting (Very well)
allilla (a-LLI-Ila)	Good/Well
suti	name
kipa	later
sug	number: one, article: a/an
kam	you
QUESTION WORDS:	
Ima	What
Imasa	How
VERBS:	
kai	to be
DAYS:	
puncha	day
kaia	tomorrow
killa	month
wata	year
ENDINGS:	
-taka	Asks a question that needs information. It is not used for a yes or no answer. Added to the word you ask about.
-mi	Tells the listener you are making a statement on the basis of first-hand knowledge. Added to the word you think is important.
-ka	Used to make a connection with the idea that came before it. Like "and" but used only for ideas, not

	nouns.
-kama	until



## RIMASUNCHI

Francisco: Puangi.

Maria: Allisia.

Francisco: Imataka suti kangí?

Maria: María Jacanamijoymi suti kani. Kamká?

Francisco: Francisco Tandioymi suti kani.

Maria: Imasataka kangí?

Francisco: Allillami kani. Kamka?

Maria: Allillami kani.

Francisco: Kipakama.

Maria: Kipakama.

## DIALOGUE TRANSLATION

Francisco:	Hello.
Maria:	Hello.
Francisco:	What is your name? (Literally: what name are you?)
Maria:	Maria Jacanamijoy is my name. And you?
Francisco:	Francisco Tandioy is my name.
Maria:	How are you?
Francisco:	I am fine. And you?
Maria:	I am fine.
Francisco:	See you later. (Literally: until later)
Maria:	See you later.

## GREETINGS

Greetings are often very specific to a particular culture. For Quechua speakers in the upper Putumayo, the simple greeting is *puangi*, which can be used at any time of day. This word is a shortening of the phrase *Imasataka pakaripuangi?* which asked "How was the dawn for you?" The response to *puangi* is *allisia*, literally meaning "well." You can see that this word relates to *allilla* meaning "good." In practice, these words function more like "hello," and it is not repetitive to ask *Imasataka kangi?* ("how are you?") after having greeted someone with *puangi*.

To greet more than one person, you add the ending *-chi* to *puangi*, saying *puangichi*. Note how endings play an important role in changing the meaning of a word. The words in Quechua can become very long when a word has many endings.

In general, among Quechua speakers, men and women alike shake hands after greeting each other verbally.



MAUKAIACHII! (Use It!)

1. How would you say hello in Inga to your teacher?

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2. How does your teacher respond?

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3. How would your teacher say hello in Inga to the class?

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4. How does the class respond?

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5. The teacher will have you take turns saying hello to one another in class.

Make sure you answer!

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#### THE VERB KAI

The verb kai means “to be.” When we talk about verbs, the letter –i is added to the stem to create the infinitive.<sup>1</sup> Usually we must give the verb a different ending (or suffix) to use it in a sentence. Often the ending tells us who we are talking about without actually having to add a pronoun. For example,

kani	I am	-ni indicates “I,” 1 <sup>st</sup> person singular
kangi	you are (singular you)	-ngi indicates “you,” 2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular
ka	he/she/it is	No ending implies “he/she/it,” 3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular

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<sup>1</sup> The infinitive is the basic form of the verb. In English, it is created by placing the word “to” in front of the verb, such as “to be” or “to run.”

**THE ENDING –MI**

The ending –mi indicates the speaker is making a statement based on first-hand knowledge. In Quechua, a speaker adds the ending to a key word in order to add clarity and emphasis to the meaning of the sentence. Notice the differences in the following examples. In each case, the meaning is the same, but the emphasis is different.

Kammi José Mujanajinsoy kangi.	YOU are José Mujanajinsoy.
Kam José Mujanajinsoymi kangi.	You are José MUJANAJINSOY.
Kam José Mujanajinsoy kangimi.	You ARE José Mujanajinsoy.

When making a statement, a speaker cannot ask a question at the same time. For this reason, it would be illogical to use –taka and –mi in the same sentence.

**WORD ORDER**

You may have noticed in the last examples that we had to rearrange the words in order to translate them into English. If we had translated them literally, the order of the sentence in the last example would be “You José Mujanajinsoy are.” Quechua speakers mostly put the verb last. In English, we are used to the word order subject-verb-object; in Quechua, we are used to subject-object-verb.

Because the endings in Quechua often make it clear how each word is functioning in the sentence, alternate word orders are possible without losing understanding, but they may slightly change the meaning. For example, saying “Kam kangimi José Mujanajinsoy” means that you are emphasizing the entire sentence (YOU ARE JOSÉ MUJANAJINSOY!).

## MORE VOCABULARY

DESCRIPTORS:	
suma	pretty
jiru	ugly
atun	big
uchulla	small
musu	new
ruku	old

## MAUKAIACHII!

Say the following sentences in Quechua:

1. I am (your name).

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2. I am fine.

---

3. You are pretty.

---

4. You are old.

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5. It is new.

---

6. He is ugly.

---

7. It is small.

---

8. She is big.

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## ASKING QUESTIONS

One of the ways to ask questions in Quechua is by adding the ending *-taka* to a word. Its use means that you are asking for information; a “yes” or “no” answer will not be an adequate response.

Again, the most important word receives the ending. For example, usually a speaker would add *-taka* to a question word like *ima*, because they are most interested in what. Adding *-taka* to a noun after the question word, however, makes that word the focus of the question, as in *ima punchataka* meaning “what DAY.”

## MAUKAIACHII!

Say the following sentences in Quechua:

1. What DAY is it?

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2. What DAY is tomorrow?

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3. HOW are you?

---

4. WHAT is your name? (literally, what name are you?)

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5. How BIG is it?

---

6. How OLD are you?

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## KAMKÁ?

*-ka* is an ending that links the idea of the current phrase with a previous phrase.

In the dialog, *kamká* effectively means “And you?” It indicates the speaker is asking the same question, but to a different person. Sometimes the *-ka* is also used in the response to the question, as a type of link back to the question.



### SAYING GOODBYE

To say goodbye to another person, you use the ending *-kama*, which means "until." You should add this ending to a word that indicates an amount of time. For example, *kipakama* literally means "until later," and *kaiakama* means "until tomorrow."

Quechua speakers can use the number one, *sug*, with an amount of time to demonstrate how long they are talking about. *Sug wata*, for example, means one year. This use is also similar to using the article 'a', as in "a year." Sometimes, however, this terminology indicates how much more time will pass. *Sug punchakama* literally means "until one day." This refers to the day after tomorrow.

### MAUKAIACHII!

Say the following sentences in Quechua:

1. Until next year.

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2. Until next month.

---

3. Until later.

---

4. Until tomorrow.

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5. Until day after tomorrow.

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### SPELLING VS. PRONUNCIATION

The use of vowels in Inga spelling helps demonstrate how systematic the language is. In practice, speakers often omit the final vowels of words. You will hear *kangi* as *kang*, *puangi* as *puang*, etc. As you listen to more and more Quechua, you will learn when these vowels are needed for understanding and when they are not.



AINI

Answer the following questions:

1. Imataka suti kangi?

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2. Imataka suti kani?

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3. Imataka suti ka?

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4. Imasataka kangi?

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NOTES, LESSON 1: