

T & N Connectors

T and N are our most common and important connectors! They are used constantly in daily conversation to create long, flowing sentences in Mvskoke.

Think of Connector T&N as “..and..” but it can also be shown as commas or other words depending on context:

...Este-Papv tat cypvkiket atasiket mv cufe tat assehcen 'svhoyvtes.

...Lion got angry, jumped up, and chased the rabbit.*

Difference Between T & N

T is for Same Subject

When the subject of the first sentence and the second sentence is **the same**, use t on the end of the first sentence clause.

The cat chased the mouse and ate it.

Pose cesse assecet mvn hompvnks.

In both sentences, the cat is the one doing the action.

N is for Different Subject

When the subject of the first sentence and the second sentence is **NOT the same**, use n on the end of the first sentence clause.

The cat chased the mouse and the mouse ran.

Pose cesse assecen (cesse) letkvns

In the first part, the cat is doing the action, but in the second part, the mouse is.

Main Rules for T & N Connectors:

- All but the last sentence clause only conjugate for person
- The time conjugation is only at the very end
- You can show sequence with H-grade (like saying “and then...”)
- Once the subjects are mentioned, they are often not mentioned again unless for clarification

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T Connectors

Mv cokv ohhonayit vsse esikit cvnuckvle hak tonkv cokv ohhompstv ohlicit
nockv-hute ayivnks.

I read that book and drank tea, and then got sleepy, so I put the book down on the table and went to the bedroom.

- On each clause, we are only seeing the who (person conjugation) and T (ohhonayit)
- We may add prefixes that add another meaning/aspect, but nothing related to time. (**esikit** = H-grade | **ohlicit** = location marker 'oh')
- We only see any reference to when this whole scenario took place at the very end of the sentence (**ayivnks** = Past 2, vnks)

Tolose sakmorke noricit pvlaknv okkohsit nak-heckv hecvhanis.

*I'm going to cook the fried chicken and wash the dishes, **and then** I'm going to watch TV.*

- As we can see here, H-grade is not a true tense marker, but just holds a function. With T&N Connectors, it shows sequence, where the sentence clause before has to happen first and only then the second sentence clause happens. This is why it is often translated to "and then"

N Connectors

Same rules, but subject switches

Fuswv hakenen heci tos.

*The bird is singing **and** I'm watching.*

Cepane **taklatiken** ecke cemestonko kicvnks.

*The boy fell **and then** his mom asked if he was okay.*

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Switch Reference in Action

Often times, subjects are only brought up once in their clause (if at all) and then dropped for a large portion of speaking. Specifics are given if the context wouldn't be clear. Because of this, it is important to keep track of when the subject is switching and who is doing what action by paying attention to when T is used and when N is used.

Neskv-cuko ayepis mahkin vmpvlse naken nesvhancv cvkicet cecakkayiha
cvkihcen ehe mahkin vhoyeyvnks.

I said, "I'm going to the store" and my spouse asked me, "What are you going to buy?" and then asked "Can I come with you?" and then I said yes and we went.

Mary efv yaceko *tontowisen* Bill efv yace mahe *ton* Mary efv lanen hehcet
vmvnicvs, cvhompvhanes selakseken monko, hiyowat ecasseceko tos ce,
hehcv mahken rahecen mv efv lanat vpele taklike towvnks.

Mary does not like dogs but Bill likes dogs a lot and Mary saw a yellow dog and screamed "Help me! It's going to eat me!" and he said, "No, he isn't even chasing you right now. Look!" and then she looked back and that dog was sitting there smiling.

The best way to catch on is to practice...

Practice catching it in speech by having conversation. Let speakers around you tell stories, where they talk for a prolonged amount of time, and pay attention to the connectors in action. Tell them what you think they said and see how close you were.

Practice noticing it and keeping track of subjects in texts by reading Mvskoke texts, keeping track of who is doing what, and then checking with an English translation. Examples include: Totkv Mucvse, J. Hill texts, Interview logs, Mvskoke Bible, etc