

# Why Cayuga words mean more

## Endings and Prefixes, Part II

Sometimes it's hard to spot Gayogoho:nq<sup>7</sup> endings and prefixes. To illustrate, let's compare an easy case to a difficult case. Here's the easy case: can you figure out the meaning of the prefix?<sup>1</sup>

### No prefix

hoyɛ:twɛh     *he planted it*  
awa:dq<sup>7</sup>     *it has become; it  
became*  
awadahq:dq:<sup>7</sup>     *it asked*

### Mystery Prefix

shoyɛ:twɛh     *he planted it again*  
sawa:dq<sup>7</sup>     *it became again; it became well again  
(i.e. it was sick)*  
sawadahq:dq:<sup>7</sup>     *it asked again*

In the easy cases, a word like hoyɛ:twɛh can exist with or without the prefix. (Of course, it means something slightly different if it does have the prefix.)

The more difficult cases are when words **must have** a prefix, as in the following examples.

sadɛihonyanih	<i>you (one person) are a teacher</i>
jadɛihonyanih	<i>you two are teachers</i>
swadɛihonyanih	<i>you (more than two of you) are teachers</i>
hadɛihonyanih	<i>he is a teacher</i>

In these examples, there is no word -adɛihonya:nih; that part cannot stand alone. In order for the word to be complete, it must have a prefix. (In this case, the prefix describes the type of person who is a teacher.)

Finding the prefix in such examples means comparing at least two similar words. The prefixes will be different, and the remaining parts will be identical or nearly so.

In both the 'easy' and 'difficult' cases, the prefixes modify or add to the meaning of the word in some way. This is another reason why Gayogoho:nq<sup>7</sup> words mean more.

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<sup>1</sup> It means 'again'.