

# The repetitive prefix vs. English “again”

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lakwarihwí:saks

# Roadmap

1. What is the repetitive?
  2. Comparing English “again” and Kanien’kéha repetitive
  3. Takeaways
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# What is the repetitive?

- In grammars and textbooks, the repetitive prefix is translated as “**again**”.
- Form: it usually shows up as **s-** to the left of the pronominal prefix.
- Meaning: some similar event has already taken place.

Katá:wens.

‘I’m swimming.’



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**S**katá:wens.

‘I’m swimming **again**.’

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Katá:wens.

‘I’m swimming.’



**S**katá:wens.

‘I’m swimming **again**.’



It would be weird to say this if you have never gone swimming...

# What is the repetitive?

- It can also be translated as “**re-**” or “**back**” which have basically the same meaning as “again” in English.

Wahawennahnó:ton’  
‘He read it.’

**S**ahawennahnó:ton’  
‘He **re-**read it.’

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## What is the repetitive?

- It can also be translated as “re-” or “back” which have basically the same meaning as “again” in English.

Wahawennahnó:ton’  
‘He read it.’

Sahawennahnó:ton’  
‘He **re-**read it.’

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la’keiatewennátahse’  
‘I called her.’

lonsakeiatewennátahse’  
‘I called her **back.**’

## So the repetitive is just like “again”?

Context: Yesterday, Paul went to his favorite restaurant. In preparation, he didn't eat all day beforehand. At the restaurant...

Kowá:nen ka'warakarí:ta wà:rake'.

'He ate a big steak.'

Sok nòn:wa kítkit **saha'**wà:rake'.

'And then he ate chicken.'

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Does NOT mean: 'And then he ate chicken **again** (another time).'

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'And then he ate chicken.'



...for the first time  
that day!

Sok ó:nen teiona'taratsikhè:tare **sà**:rake'.

'Then, he ate cake.'



...for the first time  
that day!

**The repetitive**

**≠**

**“again”**

# Roadmap

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# The difference between “again” and “s-”

- “Again” and the repetitive differ in what is included in the repeated event.

## again

Subject-Verb-Object

Verb-Object

## repetitive s-

Subject-Verb-Object

Verb-Object

Verb

# The difference between “again” and “s-”

- “Again” and the repetitive differ in **what is included in the repeated event.**

## again

Subject-Verb-Object

Verb-Object

## repetitive s-

Subject-Verb-Object

Verb-Object

Verb

The repetitive can be used in more situations than “again” can!

## English “again”: [SVO]

- It's always OK to repeat the whole event, including the subject, the verb, and the object.

[Mary ate a cookie].

 [Mary ate a cookie]  
**again.**

## Kanien'kéha repetitive: [SVO]

- It's always OK to repeat the whole event, including the subject, the verb, and the object.

Wa'khní:non'.

'I bought it.'

 **S**akhní:non'.

'I bought it **again**.'

## English “again”: [VO]

- It's usually OK to repeat the verb and the object but change the subject.

Mary [kicked the ball].  Then, Paul [kicked the ball] **again**.

## English “again”: [VO]

- It's usually OK to repeat the verb and the object but change the subject.

Mary [kicked the ball].



Then, Paul [kicked the ball] **again**.

## BUT...

Mary [played soccer].



Then, Paul [played soccer] **again**.

## Kanien'kéha repetitive: [VO]

- It's always OK to repeat the verb and the object but change the subject.

Kó:r wahawwennahnó:ton' NatGeo.  
'Paul [read the NatGeo].'

 Sok Wá:ri nòn:wa **s**aiewwennahnó:ton' NatGeo.  
'And then Mary [read the NatGeo].'

## English “again”: ✗ [V]

- It’s never OK to just repeat the verb and change the subject and object.

Mary [ate] the cake. ✗ Then, Paul [ate] the apple **again**.

Mary [swam]. ✗ Then, Paul [swam] **again**.

## Kanien'kéha repetitive: [V]

- It's always OK to just repeat the verb and change the subject and object.

É:ri wà:keke'.

I [ate] cherries.'

 Sok o'wà:ron **sá:**keke'.

'And then I [ate] meat.'

## Kanien'kéha repetitive: [V]

- It's always OK to just repeat the verb and change the subject and object.

Context: Paul and Mary are at the doctor's office at 8AM when it opens. No one else has gone in yet. First...

Kó:r ienhataweia'te'.

Paul [will go in].'

 Sok Wá:ri nòn:wa ient**ts**ientweia'te'.

'And then Mary [will go again].'

## Kanien'kéha repetitive: [V]

- It's always OK to just repeat the verb and change the subject and object.

Context: we all went on a shopping spree, me, you, and your friend Jen.

Wahshanishonhshawi'tsherahní:non'.

You [bought] a ring.'

 Sok **s**aiehna'ta'tsherahní:non'.

'Then she [bought] a purse.'

 Sok **s**akhiatonhserahní:non'.

'Then I [bought] a book.'

## Kanien'kéha repetitive: [V]

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Context: we all went on a shopping spree, me, you, and your friend Jen.

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 Sok **sakhiatonhsera**hní:non'.

'Then I [bought] a book.'

The repetitive  
even works with  
noun  
incorporation!

**The repetitive can be  
used in ALL of these  
contexts even though  
“again” cannot!**

# Roadmap

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# Takeaways

- Though the repetitive is often translated with “again”, it does not have the same function.
- Unlike “again”, the repetitive can be used to express the repetition of events in which only the verb is the same. This is NOT possible with “again.”

Size of event	“again”	repetitive
SVO		
VO	 (usually...)	
v		

# Why does this matter?

- Expressing repetition is not the same in every language; it's crucial to learn what a morpheme means AND when it is used.
- Translating between Kanien'kéha and English is hard; be careful with translations!
- Translating English directly into Kanien'kéha doesn't always work; if you translate "again" into "s-", you miss a lot of the possible uses of the repetitive.

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