

Adjectives and antonyms in Kanien'kéha

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May 12, 2026

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Roadmap

1. **Introduction: why antonyms?**
2. 3 types of antonyms in Kanien'kéha
3. Different forms → different properties
4. Next steps

Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe the property of a thing.

Paul is **TALL**.

Ra-**HNÉN:IES** ne Kó:r.

Some languages have their own class of adjectives but others use verbs or nouns adjectivally instead.

Antonyms

Antonyms are words that express opposite meanings.

POSITIVE

TALL

EASY

STRONG

EXPENSIVE

NEGATIVE

SHORT

DIFFICULT

WEAK

CHEAP

These sets of opposite words are linked in our brains and grammars.

Why do we care about antonyms?

The concept of opposites is universal but...

- not all languages use the same strategies to create antonyms
- not all antonyms can be used in the same ways

Different types of antonyms: form

Different languages have different strategies for **forming** antonyms.

LEXICAL

good vs bad

happy vs sad

polite vs rude

open vs closed

MORPHOLOGICAL

honest vs dishonest

happy vs unhappy

polite vs impolite

open vs unopened

→ In English, the **positive** forms are sometimes used to make **negative** forms.

Different types of antonyms: polarity

Positive and **negative** antonyms can't be used in the same ways.

POSITIVE

Measure

Peter is six feet **tall**

Question

How **tall** is Paul?
→ Paul can be tall or short

Compare

My chair is taller than yours is **wide**

NEGATIVE

??Peter is three feet **short**

How **short** is Paul?
→ assumes Paul is short

?My chair is taller than yours is
narrow

Different types of antonyms: type

Not even all **positive** antonyms can be used the same way...

DIMENSIONAL

Peter is six feet **tall**

The river is a foot **deep**

My car is ten years **old**

EVALUATIVE

??The soup is ten degrees **hot**

??Mary is three diplomas **smart**

??My car is 100 kph **fast**

How do antonyms work in Kanien'kéha?

GOALS OF THIS PROJECT

1. document all forms of antonyms in the language
2. investigate how different antonym forms pattern in usage
3. better understand how languages express opposites

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Form 1: lexical antonyms

Positive and negative forms use completely different roots.

<u>ENGLISH</u>	<u>POSITIVE</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>
good/bad	loiánere'	lo'táksen
hot/cold	lo'tarihen	lowísto
beautiful/ugly	lohskáts	Kahétken
strong/weak	Rashátste'	Rotsi'ió:ha
difficult/easy	Wentó:re'	Watié:sen

Form 2: DIM antonyms (morphological)

Ken' PART-positive-DIM

<u>ENGLISH</u>	<u>POSITIVE</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>
tall/short	Rahnén:ies	(Ken') nihahneniéssha
thick/thin	Ká:tens	(Ken') nikaténssha
deep/shallow	lohnó:tes	(Ken') niiohnotéssha
wide/narrow	Tewatakà:ron	(Ken') na'tewatakahn:ròn:'a
old/young	Thó:ien'	(Ken') nithoièn:'a

Form 3: NEG antonyms (morphological)

Negate the positive form

ENGLISH

expensive/cheap

heavy/light

POSITIVE

Kanó:ron

ló:kste'

NEGATIVE

lah tekanó:ron

lah teiό:kste'

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Form 1: lexical antonyms – measure

Lexical antonyms pattern like English EVALUATIVE antonyms (hot/cold)

- Measure phrases are **bad/weird**

?Áhsen niwáhsen niio'taríhen.

?It's thirty degrees hot.

?Áhsen niiowísto.

?It's three degrees cold.

Form 1: lexical antonyms – question

Lexical antonyms pattern like English EVALUATIVE antonyms (hot/cold)

- “How” questions are **OK**, but both seem to make an **assumption**

Tó: niio'taríhen?

How hot is it?

→ assume it's hot

Tó: niiowísto?

How cold is it?

→ assume it's cold

Form 1: lexical antonyms – compare

Lexical antonyms pattern like English EVALUATIVE antonyms (hot/cold)

- They're **OK** to use in comparisons

Sénha ranekénhteron tsi niióht tsi
nihattókha'

He's more handsome than he is smart.

Sénha io'taríhen tsi ní:ioht ne iowísto.

It's hotter than it is cold.

Form 1: lexical antonyms – exclaim

Lexical antonyms pattern like English EVALUATIVE antonyms (hot/cold)

- They are **OK** to express surprise (exclaim!)

Niiio'taríhen!

My, how hot it is!

Niiowísto!

My, how cold it is!

Form 2: DIM antonyms – measure

Positive DIM antonyms pattern like English DIMENSIONAL antonyms (tall) but negative DIM antonyms pattern like their own special thing!

- Measure phrases are **OK with POS** but ungrammatical with **NEG**

là:ia'k niwahsì:take nihahnén:ies.

He's six feet tall.

*Áhsen niwahsì:take nihahneniésa.

He's three feet short.

Form 2: DIM antonyms – question

Positive DIM antonyms pattern like English DIMENSIONAL antonyms (tall) but negative DIM antonyms pattern like their own special thing!

- “How” questions are **OK with POS** but ungrammatical with **NEG**

Tó: nihahnén:ies?

How tall is he?

*Tó: nihahneniésa?

How short is he?

Form 2: DIM antonyms – compare

Positive DIM antonyms pattern like English DIMENSIONAL antonyms (tall) but negative DIM antonyms pattern like their own special thing!

- Comparing is **OK with POS** but ungrammatical with **NEG**

Kó:r sénha rahnén:ies tsi **niiohnó:tes** ne
iontawenhstákhwa.

Paul is taller than the pool is **deep**.

*Kí:ken sénha kahiatonhserá:tens tsi
ní:ioht tsi thí:ken **ken'**
nikahiatonhseraténsha.

This book is thicker than that book is **thin**.

Form 2: DIM antonyms – exclaim

Positive DIM antonyms pattern like English DIMENSIONAL antonyms (tall) but negative DIM antonyms pattern like their own special thing!

- Exclaiming is **OK with POS** but **ungrammatical with NEG**

Nihahnén:ies!

My, how tall he is!

*Nihahneniésa?

My, how short he is!

Form 3: NEG antonyms

Positive DIM antonyms pattern like English DIMENSIONAL antonyms (tall) but negative DIM antonyms just act like negated positive forms...

Tó: niiókste'?

How heavy is it?

Wísk nikakontsherá:ke niiókste'.

It's five pounds heavy.

Nikanó:ron!

My, how expensive it is!

??lah tó: teiókste'?

How heavy isn't it?

??lah áhsen nikakontsherá:ke teiókste'.

It isn't three pounds heavy.

??lah tekanó:ron!

It's not expensive!

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3 types of antonym strategies in Kanien'kéha

Strategy	POS pattern	NEG form	NEG pattern
Lexical	evaluative (like hot)	V	evaluative (like cold)
DIM	dimensional (like tall)	(ken') ni-V-ha	special!
NEG	dimensional (like tall)	iah te-V	normal NEG

Takeaways

- Linguistics: Kanien'kéha antonyms follow some cross-linguistic patterns (evaluative and dimensional positive forms; using negation to make opposites) but **the DIM form is very unique**.
- Learning: thinking about what type of adjectival verb you're using will help in forming and using its antonym
 - Evaluative → just like English
 - Dimensional → need to use DIM or NEG

More to do?

- **Ken'k:** some speakers translate sentences with *ken'k* as negative antonyms. Is this another strategy?

Ken'k n'atekahsì:ta's.

My feet are so small.

- **Other DIM forms:** sometimes DIM can be used with evaluative adjectives but it doesn't make an antonym. How is this different?

lohsnorè:'a.

It's a little/sort of fast.

Niá:wen!

- Katerí Deer and Konwaronhiá:wi Helen Norton
- Akwiratékha Martin, Karhó:wane McComber, Tsowén:te Cross
- Mary Onwá:ri Tekahawáhkwen McDonald
- Katya Morgunova, Karin Michelson, Anne Bertrand, Alan Bale
- Rotinikhrowánens
- Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center