

Palauan Language Workbook

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		page
Unit 1	Palauan Sound System	1 - 8
Unit 2	Greetings	9-10
Unit 3	Numbers	11-13
Unit 4	Colors	14-15
Unit 5	Days & Months Events Time	16-18
Unit 6	Conjunction	19-23
Unit 7	Connectives	24-29
Unit 8	The word 'a'	30-32
Unit 9	Relational word 'er'	33-36
Unit 10	Nouns	37-39
Unit 11	Noun Possession	40-42
Unit 12	Pronouns	43-45
Unit 13	Object Pronouns	46-48
Unit 14	Questions	49-52
Unit 15	Verbs	53-55
	Dialogues	56-75
	Glossary	76-82
	Reference	83

 UNIT ONE

The Palauan Sound System

This workbook uses the spelling system adopted by the Palauan Orthography Committee in October 1972 which is used in both the Palauan Reference Grammar and the Palauan Dictionary. These materials were produced at the University of Hawaii.

Vowels

There are five vowels (a, e, i, o, u). Long vowels are always indicated by doubling the same vowel. With the exception of the vowel 'a', all Palauan vowels can be lengthened (ee, ii, oo, uu).

Palauan Vowels

<u>Written vowel</u>	<u>As in</u>	<u>English Equivalent sound</u>
a	chad 'person'	car
e	sers 'garden'	red
i	sils 'sun'	tin
o	ngor 'mouth'	home
u	bung 'flower'	tube
*e (schwa)	ngikel 'fish'	nickel

<u>Double vowel</u>	<u>As in:</u>	<u>English Equivalent sound</u>
aa	does not occur	
ee	deel 'nail'	stale
ii	ngii 'he/she/it'	seen
oo	dekool 'cigarette'	soul
uu	beluu 'land'	blue

In addition to being longer, the double vowels of Palauan sometimes have a gliding pronunciation, like the English "y" and "w". This is heard mostly in the beginning of the word for example, **iis** 'nose' sounds like 'yis' and **uum** 'kitchen' sounds like 'wum'. But since 'y' and 'w' are not significant phonemes in Palauan, the spelling system does not use these except in personal names and borrowed words.

Palauan vowels can be combined to form clusters (diphthongs). In the cluster vowels, one of the vowel usually becomes glided. For example, **i** becomes 'y' as in English **young** and **u** becomes 'w' as in English **work**. The following are vowel clusters in Palauan.

AE	EA	IA	OA	UA
AI	EI	IE	OE	UE
AO	EO	IO	OI	UI
AU	EU	IU	OU	UO

Vowel Clusters

1 rael	road	8 kleu	young coconut	15 rois	mountain
2 bail	shirt	9 diall	ship	16 klou	big
3 daob	sea	10 iedel	mango	17 sualo	basket
4 chaus	lime	11 dioll	pregnant	18 uel	turtle
5 eanged	sky	12 iungs	island	19 buil	moon
6 chei	to fish	13 oach	foot	20 suobel	lesson
7 eolt	wind	14 boes	gun	21 kuoll	to be
					respected

Palauan Consonants

There are 10 Palauan consonants. They are **b**, **ch**, **d**, **k**, **l**, **m**, **ng**, **r**, **s**, and **t**. **NG** and **CH** are used as single unit. **NG** is used as in the English word 'sing'. **CH** is used as a single unit to represent a glottal stop. For example, **chad** 'person' is pronounced 'ad'. **NG** also represents **n**, **ng**, and **m** in certain environments.

Palauan consonants are explained with examples below.

CONSONANT B

The letter **B** is pronounced like the English "b" or "p" depending on the situation. Because the pronunciation of the letter **b** is predictable and can be explained by the following rules, the letter **b** is used in spelling the Palauan words in all cases. The rules for pronouncing the letter **b** correctly are given here.

a. The letter **b** is pronounced like the English "b" in word-initially and word-internally between vowels or before the letter **L**.

blai	house
bai	community house
bilis	dog
rubak	old man
obang	to have, carry
oublai	own a house

b. With exception of the letter **L**, the letter **b** is pronounced like the English "P" right next to another consonant and at the end of the word after a vowel.

btuch	pronounced like	ptuch	star
brer		prer	bamboo raft
brak		prak	giant taro
tub		tup	saliva
bab		bap	top
bub		bup	trap

Letter **B** can be clustered with other consonants. For example: **bt**, **bs**, **bng**, and **kb**.

Examples: btuch(star) bsibs(drill) kboub(wall) bngaol (flower)

CONSONANT CH (glottal stop)

CH is a single unit and pronounced like a glottal stop. The pronunciation of Palauan **CH** does not vary at all regardless of where it occurs in the word.

1. Word-initially:

chais	news	pronounce like 'ice'
chad	person	pronounce like 'odd'
charm	animal	pronounce like 'arm'

2. word-internally

rachel	branch
bachel	Palauan money
beches	new

3. word-finally

mesisiich	strong; healthy
besiich	decoration
buch	spouse
taoch	channel in the mangroves

Note: For further explanation and pronunciation see **Palauan Reference Grammar** by Lewis Joseph.

CONSONANT D

The letter **D** is pronounced like the English voiced "th" in words like **then, the, that** or "d" as in **dog, day, do**. These variations do not make any significance in the meaning of the words.

Followings are examples of the occurrence in words-initially, internally, & finally.

1.	daob	ocean
2.	deel	nail
3.	diall	ship
4.	medal	his/her eye, face
5.	kedeb	short
6.	bad	stone
7.	mad	eye

CONSONANT K

The letter **K** has two different pronunciations, depending on its position in the word. When the letter **K** occurs word-initially, word-finally, or next to another consonant, it is pronounced like the English 'K'. When it occurs between vowels **K** is pronounced like 'g'.

Here are the examples:

- | | | |
|----|--------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | kar | medicine |
| 2. | ker | question |
| 3. | demak | my father |
| 4. | rubak | old man |
| 5. | olekar | cause someone to wake up |
| 6. | rekas | mosquito |
| 7. | oker | to question |
| 8. | lotkii | remember it |
| 9 | tutkii | point to it; assign someone |
| 10 | skuul | school |

CONSONANT L

The letter **L** occurs in all positions within the word (initially, medially, & finally). Its pronunciation is very close to the English 'L'. The letter **L** is also spelled double in some Palauan words. Its pronunciation is stronger. The **LL** spelling reflects a strong 'L'.

Here are some examples:

- | | | |
|-----|----------|-----------------------|
| 1. | lius | coconut |
| 2. | blai | house |
| 3. | beluu | land, country |
| 4. | rael | road |
| 5. | llel | its leaf |
| 6. | llach | law |
| 7. | mellemau | blue |
| 8. | mellomes | daylight; intelligent |
| 9. | kall | food |
| 10. | diall | ship |

CONSONANT M

The letter **M** occurs in all positions within the word. Its pronunciation is very close to the English 'm'. The letter **M** is spelled double in some Palauan words. The pronunciation is stronger. The **MM** spelling reflects a strong 'm'.

Here are some examples:

- | | | |
|----|---------|--------------------|
| 1. | mur | feast |
| 2. | mark | ripe |
| 3. | smecher | sick |
| 4. | melim | drink, be drinking |
| 5. | omechur | count, be counting |
| 6. | kedam | kite |
| 7. | demmam | our (excl) father |
| 8. | demmiu | your (pl) father |

CONSONANT NG

The letters **NG** are used as a single unit to spell a Palauan consonant that is often pronounced like the "ng" at the end of the English words such as **sing** and **long**.

The consonant **NG** occurs in all positions within the word. The consonant **NG** always has the distinctive "ng" pronunciation before a vowel or word-finally. It is pronounced like an "n" before **T, D, S,** and **R**. It is also pronounced "m" before consonants **B** and **M**.

Examples:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Word-initially | |
| ngau | fire |
| ngor | mouth |
| nguis | tree snake |
| 2. Word-internally | |
| ongos | east |
| mengat | to smoke (fish) |
| ungil | good |

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| 3. Word-finally | | |
| | meleng | to borrow |
| | chang | jetty, dock |
| | rekung | land crab |
| 4. n sound | | |
| | iungs | island |
| | mengsous | to grind |
| 5. m sound | | |
| | Ng boes | it's a gun |
| | ng mlai | it's a boat/car |
| | ng bail | it's a dress |

CONSONANT R

The letter **R** occurs in all positions in the Palauan words. It is pronounced like the English tapped 'r' as in **matter** and **ladder**. The letter **R** can also occur in doubles. It is like the English trilled **R**. It has a stronger sound.

Examples:

- | | | |
|----|----------|------------|
| 1. | kar | medicine |
| 2. | rekas | mosquito |
| 3. | char | seaweed |
| 4. | rrom | liquor |
| 5. | kerrekar | tree |
| 6. | rruul | made, done |

CONSONANT S

The letter **S** is similar to the English 's' and occurs in all positions in the Palauan words.

Examples:

- | | | |
|----|----------|----------|
| 1. | siseball | entrance |
| 2. | sibai | slave |
| 3. | mesuub | study |
| 4. | bilis | dog |
| 5. | mengiis | dig |

CONSONANT T

The letter T is quite similar to the English 't' and occurs in all positions in the Palauan words.

Examples:

1.	teruich	ten
2.	tuu	banana
3.	tutau	morning
4.	omart	hide, be hiding

CONSONANTS such as **F, H, J, V,** and **Z** only occur in borrowed words from other languages, like Spanish, Japanese, and English.

Examples:

1.	kahol	box	English
2.	zori	sandel	Japanese
3.	Joyce	name	English
4.	Furusato	name	Japanese
5.	Huan	name	Spanish
6.	honto	real (refer to Bebeldaob)	

Palauan Consonants can occur in different combinations or clusters; such clusters are found in words like:

1	mlai	'canoe'	10	btuch	'star'
2	tkul	'edge'	11	bilsengel	'his boat'
3	brer	'raft'	12	bkul	'its corner'
4	rakt	'sickness'	13	cheldukl	'paved with stones'
5	dort	'iron wood'	14	milseseb	'burnt'
6	blai	'house'	15	mengitakl	'sing. be singing'
7	klou	'big'	16	delmerab	'room'
8	sikt	'bunch'	17	eolt	'wind'
9	drumk	'thunder'	18	ralm	'water'

U N I T 2

Topic: Greetings

Competency: Greet others at various times of the day.

Ojectives: Learners will be able to greet others informally and carry on small talks.

Able to say and use the followings in a conversation:

ungil tutau	good morning
ungil chodochosong	good morning (late in the morning)
ungil sueleb	good afternoon
ungil ieta sils	(used late in the afternoon)
ungil kebesengei	good evening

Grammar Notes: The functions of the following words will be explained later: **el, e, er, and a. Me** is a connective word meaning **and**.

Vocabulary:

1.	ungil	good
2.	mesiiich	strong; healthy
3.	dimlak	no
4.	osiik	looking for
5.	bong	go
6.	debong	let's go
7.	oingerang	when
9	blik	my house(home)
10.	Ak/Ngak	I
11	Kau/Ke	You
12	ua	like
13	e	and ; because
14	di	just, only
15	chochoi	yes
16	mlo(ng)	went
17	mo(ng)	will go/ going to

Cultural Note: Greetings are conducted informally and sometimes used with alij which means hello. When one is visiting, he/she may use it as to find out whether there is someone at the house or not.

Practice: Dialogue

Jack:	Ungil tutau.	Good morning.
Sandy:	Ungil tutau.	Good morning.
Jack:	Ke ua ngerang?	How are you?
Sandy:	Ak mesisiich e kau.	I am fine and you?
Jack:	Ak dirrek el mesisiich. *Ke mlo 'r a chelii?	I am fine, too. Where did you go yesterday?
Sandy:	*Ng dimlak bo 'r. Ak di mla er a blik. E kau?	I didn't go anywhere. I only stayed at home. And you?
Jack:	Ak mlo osiik a ngikel el mo er a <u>party</u> (ungil el klebesei).	I went looking for fish for a party (celebration).
Sandy:	Ng oingerang a <u>party</u> ?	When is the party/ celebration?
Jack:	Ng kebesenge er a klukuk. Me(i) e debong.	It's tomorrow night. Let us go.
Sandy:	Chochoi, Ma (Me a) kebesenge er a klukuk.	Yes, until tomorrow night.
Jack:	Mechikung.	Good bye.

*ke mo'r ?(Ke mo er ker?); Ke mlo'r? (Ke mlo er ker?)

U N I T 3

Topic: Numbers

Competency: Use numbers correctly in context.

Objectives: The learner will say correctly and know what to use when asked to tell:

time of the day
days of the week
what month of the year
number of things, animals, people

Grammar Notes: Conjunction *EL* is used in many different situations to join one word or phrase to another. With numbers, *el* connects the number to the noun.

Examples:

ta el chad	one man (person)
chimo el kluk	one dollar
eru el klok	2:00 o'clock
teluo el oluches	one pencil
kleim el kluk	\$5 (five dollars)
dart el kluk	\$100 (one hundred dollars)
euid el klok	7:00 o'clock
teruich el oluches	ten pencils
tacher el lius	ten coconuts
teruich el klebesei	ten days
eru el sils	two days
edei el buil	three months
etiu el rak	nine years
kot el ureor	monday
ongeim el ureor	friday
teliud el tuu	one bunch of bananas

Note: Review numbers if necessary.

Vocabulary:

1.	telang	how many
2.	hong	book
3.	oluches	pencil
4.	kingall	chair
5.	ngikel	fish
6.	tuu	banana
7.	kob	cup
8.	klok	clock
9.	katuu	cat
10.	bilis	dog
11.	babii	pig
13.	malk	chicken
14.	udoud	money
15.	lius	coconut
16.	sils	sun
17.	buil	moon
18.	rak	year
19.	ureor	work

Cultural information: There are several counting systems used in Palau and each functions according to the context. For detailed information, see the Palau Language Curriculum, Peace Corps Office (Koror, Palau).

Practice:

Ng tela el klok?
Ng ede el klok.

What time is it?
It is 3:00 o'clock.

Ng tela el bilis?
Ng kldei.

How many dogs?
three dogs

Ng tela el udoud?
Ng kleim el kluk.

How much money?
five dollars

**Ng ongetela el ureor?
Ng kot el ureor.**

**What day is it?
It is monday.**

Ng ongetela el buil?

What month is it?

Ng ongeru el buil.

It is February.

**Ng ongedei el buil.
Ng ongetela el rak?
Ng kot el rak.
Ng ongeru el rak.**

**It is March
What year is it?
It is the first year.
It is the second year.**

Te tela el chad a kiei er a blim?

**How many people
are staying at your
house?**

Te teruich.

They are ten.

Ng tela el babii a soam?

**How many pigs do
you need?**

Ng teblong.

two

Ke mo er a chei er a tela el klok?

**You are going fishing
at what time?**

Ak mo er a elolem el klok.

**I am going at 6:00
o'clock.**

**Ngar er ngii a kelem el tuu?
Ngar er ngii a teliud.**

**Do you have bananas?
I have one bunch.**

Application: Have trainees ask questions applying what they have learned.

U N I T 4

Topic: Colors

Competency: Ability to identify different colors.

Objectives: Learner will be able to:

- . identify objects by their colors
- . use and say the appropriate word for colors

Vocabulary:

1.	bekerekard	red
2.	mellemau	blue
3.	bibrurk	yellow
4.	bedengel a chutem	brown
5.	chemadech	green
6.	mengungau	orange, red
7.	chedelekelk	black
8.	becheleleu	white
9.	cheriich	tan
10.	mechellings	clear
11.	cherrechar	not clear (muddy)
12.	tiang	this place or thing
13.	tilechang	that place or thing
14.	bedengél	its color
15.	chetitau	light brown; tan

Grammar Notes:

Notice that conjunction 'EL' is used to connect two words.
(Refer to the function of 'el' under conjunction)

Examples:

1.	mellemau el daob	blue ocean
2.	becheleleu el eabed	white cloud
3.	chetitau el ekebil	tan girl
4.	mechellings el ralm	clear water
5.	cherrechar el daob	stirred up or agitated

6.	chedelekelek el oeacher	black shoe(s)
7.	mengungau el bachel	orange red money
8.	chemadech el tuu	unripe banana
9.	chemadech el ngikel	raw fish
10	chemadech el kall	uncooked food

Note: The word 'chemadech has multiple meanings as used in no. 8 to 10.

Practice:

Ngera a bedengel tia el mlai?

Ng bechelelei.

Ng mellemau.

Ng chedekelek.

What is the color of this car?

It is white.

It is blue

It is black.

Ngera a bedengel tilecha el udoud?

Ng mengungau.

Ng bibrurk.

Ng berrak.

What is the color of that money? (Palauan money)

It is orange red.

It is yellow.

It is yellow.

Ng ua ngera a bedengel a ralm?

Ng mechellings.

Ng cherrechar.

What is the color of the water?

It is clear.

It is stirred up.

Ng soam a becheleleu el chad?

Ng soam a chedekelek el chad?

Ng soam a chetitau el dil (redil)?

Do you like a white man?

Do you like a black man?

Do you like a tan woman?

U N I T 5

TOPIC: Days, Month and year
time
events

Competency: Able to ask and/or answer questions regarding what time, day or year it is.

Understand the main events in Palau.

Objectives: The learner will be able to:

1. ask or answer questions about time, etc.
2. know the main events and their functions
(This objective may be incorporated with cultural awareness)

Grammar Notes: Again conjunction 'el' is used here to connect two words. The uses and functions are explained under Unit 7. (Conjunction 'el')

Vocabulary:

Review:

Days of the week

kot el ureor

Monday

ongeru el ureor

Tuesday

ongede el ureor

Wednesday

ongea el ureor

Thursday

ongeim el ureor

Friday

sabadong

Saturday

sandei

Sunday

Review con't.

Month

kot el buil	January
ongeru el buil	February
ongede el buil	March
ongewa el buil	April
ongeim el buil	May
ongelolem el buil	June
ongeuïd el buil	July
ongesai el buil	August
ongetiu el buil	September
ongeteruich el buil	October

ongeteruich me a ta el rak	November
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ongeteruich me a ongeru el rak	December
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Time

ta el klok	one o'clock
eru el klok	two o'clock
edei el klok	three o'clock
eua el klok	four o'clock
eim el klok	five o'clock
elolem el klok	six o'clock
euid el klok	seven o'clock
eai ek klok	eight o'clock
etiu el klok	nine o'clock
teruich el klok	ten o'clock
telia el sils	very late in the afternoon
olengchela el chad	dusk
melekinga a tutau	dawn
ieta a sils	1:00 to 2:00 p.m

EVENTS OF THE YEAR**New words:**

beches er rak
kemeldiil
ngasech
ocheraol

cheroll (tansiobi)
mur
mekemad
omerael
cheldech duch

klechedaol

new year
funeral
1st. born celebration
money-raising party (to buy a
house, canoe)
birthday party
feast
war
trips (traveling)
time to settle disputes after
the death of a spouse

celebration to show tie between
two villages (states)

Practice: (conversation)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | A | Ke oureor er a ongeim el ureor? | Do you work on
Friday? |
| | B | Ng diak. Ak di oureor el mo
ongea el ureor. | No. I only work up
to Thursday. |
| | A | Ng sebeched el mo
er a ngasech? | Can we go to Ngasech? (1st.
baby born celebration) |
| | B | Ng diak. Ak mo er
a kemeldiil. | No. I am going to a funeral. |
| | A | Ng techa mla mad? | Who died? |
| | B | Ng ochedal a sechelik. | He is the brother of my friend. |

Application: Write a conversation based on one of the listed events.

U N I T 6

Topic Conjunction 'EL'

Competency: Know the functions of the word 'EL' in sentences.

Objective(s) Ability to use the word 'EL' to connect a word to another.

Grammar Notes: "The conjunction 'EL' is used in many different situations to join one word or phrase to another. In all of its usages, 'el' links a modifying word or phrase to the noun (or verb) modified. Its pronunciation may be reduced or even totally lost. It is always spelled as an independent word. Some of the most common usages of 'el' are illustrated below."
(Lewis Joseph, Handbook of Palauan Grammar)

Demonstratives

(1) EL connects demonstratives to persons, animals or things:

(a)	tia el klalo	this thing
	tilecha el klalo	that thing near you
	se el klalo	that thing
	tirka el chad	these people
	tirilecha el chad	those people near you
	tirke el chad	those people
	aika el charm	these animals
	ailecha el charm	those animals near you
	aike el charm	those animals

(note) the letter 'e' in 'el' is not pronounced when followed by a vowel.

N U M B E R S

(2) EL connects a number to a noun.

<p>(b) ta el ekebil chimo el kluk eru el klok</p>	<p>one girl one dollar 2:00 o'clock</p>
<p>eruo el oluches</p>	<p>two pencils</p>
<p>ede el klok klde el lius dart el kluk</p>	<p>3:00 o'clock three coconuts \$100</p>

Remember that the e in el is not pronounced when followed by a vowel, but is heard as a weak e after a consonant.

Examples:

Phrase

Pronounced as

ta el
chimo el
eruo el
ede el
klde el
eru el

tal
chimol
eruol
edel
klde l
erul

M O D I F I E R S

(3) EL connects a modifier to a noun.

(c)	elecha el sils	today
	mekelekolt el ralm	cold water
	bek el tutau	every morning
	mekngit el chad	bad person
	ungil el chad	good person

In the examples of (c), e of el is lost after a vowel-final word, but is pronounced as a weak e after a consonant-final word. If the word preceding el ends in L, as in the case of (ungil el chad 'good person'), then el is omitted totally from the pronunciation (sounds like "ungilchad"). In addition, if el precedes a word beginning with R, as in mekelekolt el ralm 'cold water', then the L of el and the following R blend into a double R (sounds like "megelegolterraalm"). - L. Joseph

Besides the expressions of (c), Palauan has expressions in which the modifying word follows the word modified:

(d)	chad el mengitaki	person who sings
	soal el mo er a chei	his desire to go fishing
	sensei el ungil	teacher who is good
	John el sensei	John, who is a teacher
	ngalek el smecher	child who is sick

C O M P L E X C O N S T R U C T I O N S

(4) With a variety of complex constructions:

<p>(e) dirrek el sensei di telkib el kukau mo merek el mesuub omengur el oba a taod blechoel el mesuub mo el ngar er a mlai omuchel el mengitaki mo el obengkel a sensei bek (rokui) el taem ngodech el chad sekesius el chad</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">meses el buik</p>	<p>is also a teacher only a little piece of taro will finish studying to eat with a fork always studies to go in a car to begin singing to go with the teacher all the time different person person who is prone to swearing industrious boy</p>
--	--

Vocabulary:

<p>1 elecha(ng) 2 mekelekolt 3 mekngit 4 mengitaki 5 soal 6 dirrek 7 mo(ng) 8 omengur 9 blechoel 10 obengkel 11 omuchel 12 oba(ng) 13 telkib 14 meses 15 sius 16 sekesius 17 ngodech</p>	<p>now/today cold bad; evil sing, be singing his/her desires also will eat, be eating always with him/her begin with something/have a piece of/a little bit of industrious bad word(s) prone to swearing different</p>
---	--

Practice: (Using conjunction 'el' in sentences)

Ngera kobang el omengur?

What do you eat with?

Ng soal el obengkel techa el mo omengur?

Who does she/he likes to eat with?

Ng soal el menga ngera el kall?

What food does he/she like to eat?

Ak omengur el menga er a telkib el ngikel.

I am eating a piece of fish.

Ng blechoel el mengitaki er a 'Katuu me a Beab'.

He/She always sings 'Katuu me a Beab'.

A mekelekolt el ralm a mekngit er ngak.

Cold water is bad for me.

Ak mo omuchel el meruul er a telkib el sers er a klukuk.

I will start a small garden tomorrow.

Ng dirrek el soak el mo er a chei.

I also like to go fishing.

A John a meses el buik.

John is an industrious boy.

A Dilbung a sekesius el ekebil.

Dilbung is a girl who swears a lot.

Application: Have trainees converse or write sentences based on what they have learned from this unit.

Identify phrases that are connected by the conjunction 'el'.

U N I T 7

TOPIC: CONNECTING WORDS

COMPETENCY Use connecting words correctly.

OBJECTIVE(S) Identify and use connecting words correctly.

GRAMMAR NOTES: *Me* 'and(so)' or *e* 'and (then, because)' are connecting words because they connect two sentences into one. *Me a lechub* 'if' and *e ng di* 'but' are two expressions that also connect sentences.

- (1) a. A bechik a mle smecher. My wife was sick.
 b. Ng dimlak kbo er a party. I did not go to the party.

A bechik a mle smecher My wife was sick, so I did
 me ng dimlak kbo er a party. not go to the party.

- (2) a. Ng mle mekngit a eanged. The weather was bad.
 b. Ng dimlak kbo er a Peleliu. I did not go to Peleliu.

Ng mle mekngit a eanged The weather was bad, so
 me ng dimlak kbo er a I did not go to Peleliu.
 Peleliu.

Additional examples of complex sentences connected with the word me.

- a. Ke mlekera me ke rirebet er a cheldukl?
 How did you fall off the dock?
- b. A sensei a dilu er ngak me ak olengeseu er a Sam.
 The teacher told me to help Sam.

The connecting word **me** “and” also occurs in imperative sentences.

Bo er a bita me mlengir a Oles.

Go next door and borrow a knife.

Bo er a stouang me mochar a keled.

Go to the store and buy us food.

Bo er a blim me bo bad.

Go home and sleep.

Me(i) me doilil.

Come and play.

Bekiis me bo el mesisiich a bedengem.

Get up so you'll feel strong.

The connecting word **me** is also used to connect two independent clauses which are parallel in structure and present information of more-or-less equal significance.

A bilel a Sam a bekerekard me a bilek a becheleleu.

Sam's shirt is red and my shirt is white.

A Tino a ngalek er a skuul me a Sandy a sensei.

Tina is a student and Sandy is a teacher.

A Brel a mo er a chei me A Meli a mo er a sers.

Brel is going fishing and Meli is going to work in the garden.

Ak meriik er a mekesokes me a Kora a melemmed er a ulaol.

I am sweeping the yard and Kora is mopping the floor.

Connecting word e ‘and (then, because)’ are shown in the following complex sentences.

1. Ng dimlak kbo er a party e le a bechik a mle smecher.
I did not go to the party because my wife was sick.
2. A lengar er ngii a ududek, e ak mo er a Guam.
If I had money, then I’d go to Guam.
3. A lsekum ng ungil a eanged, e te mo er a chei.
If the weather is good, then they’ll go fishing.
4. Ng dimlak kbo er a Peleliu e le ng mle mekngit a eanged.
I did not go to Peleliu because the weather was bad.

The expression *me a lechub*

The connecting word *me* occurs with the words *a lechub* to form *me a lechub*, an expression corresponding to the English ‘or’. It is easier to consider *me a lechub* as a single unit. When *me a lechub* joins two clauses, the second clause is often introduced by the connecting word *e*. See the examples.

Ke mo er a katsudo me a lechub
e ke mo er a party?

Are you going to the
movies, or are you going
to the party?

Ke merael me a lechub e ke
di kiei?

Are you leaving, or will
you stay?

The expression ***e ng di***

The connecting word **e** occurs with the words **ng di** to form **e ng di**, an expression corresponding to the English 'but'. The use of this expression is shown in sentences like the following:

A Patsy a mlo soal el mo er a Guam, e ng di mla mo diak a ududel.

Patsy wanted to go to Guam, but her money ran out.

Ak mlo er a party e ng di a Sandy a dimlak el sebechel el mong.

I went to the party, but Sandy couldn't.

Ak ileko er a blim e ng di ke mle dibus.

I went to your house, but you were out.

Vocabulary:

me	and, so
e	then, because
lsekum	if
dimlak	did not
mekngit	bad
eanged	weather, sky
lengar er ngii	if there is
ududek	my money
mle	was
te	they
buch	spouse
bechik	my spouse
ruebet	fall
rirebet	fell
dilu(ng)	said
olengeseu	help, be helping
omechar	buy, be buying
mochar	you buy
mekesokes	yard
meriik	sweep, be sweeping
ulaol	floor
e ng di	but
ududel	his/her money
dibus	be not here
ngmasech	(sun, moon) rise
ngmelt	(sun, moon) set; sink (in soft ground)
metkung	is dying
mechiuau	sleep, be sleeping
omenged	fishing

Practice:

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Bo er a skuul me mlengir a oriik. | Go to school and borrow a broom. |
| 2 | A delak me ngak a mo er a Oreor. | My mother and I are going to Koror. |
| 3 | Ngera ngar er ngii me ko meremang?/Or Ngera dulang me ko meremang? Or Ngera ised me ko meremang? | What is it that has brought you here? |
| 4 | Te di omengur e merael. | They just eat and leave. |
| 5 | Ng mirrael a Ben e ak mo mechiuaiu. | Ben left and then I went to sleep. |
| 6 | A Sis a ulemengur e merael. | Sis ate and then left. |
| 7 | Ng kmal smecher e metkung. | He's very sick and is dying. |
| 8 | A Ngiltii a chad er a sers e chad er a omenged. | Ngiltii is both a farmer and a fisherman. |
| 9 | A sils a ngmasech er a Ongos e mo ngmelt er a Ngebard. | The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. |
| 10 | Ke me(i) me a lechub e ngdiak? | Are you coming or not? |
| 11 | Ng soak el me(i) e ng di a delak a smecher. | I would like to come, but my mother is sick. |

Application: Have trainees write sentences and converse with one another.

U N I T 8

TOPIC: The word 'a'

Competency: Know the uses and functions of the word 'a'.

Objective(s): Ability to use the word 'a' in sentences.

Grammar Notes: It seems that the major function of the word 'a' is to introduce certain Palauan parts of speech when they occur in sentences. It has been researched that every Palauan noun must be directly preceded by 'a' regardless of whether the noun is a sentence subject or object, or follows the relational word 'er'. Furthermore, 'a' always introduces the verb of the sentence, which directly follows the subject noun and names an action or a state or condition.

Examples:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. Ak meluches er a babier. | I'm writing a letter. |
| b. Te mo er a skuul. | They are going to school. |
| c. A John a meruul er ngii. | John is making it. |
| d. A Ben a ulemes er ngak. | Ben was looking at me. |
| e. A beab a tilobed er a
belsibs. | The mouse came out of the hole. |
| f. A ngalek a milil. | The child is playing. |
| g. A Clara a mesuub. | Clara is studying |
| h. A mlai a bekerekard. | The car is red. |

Notice that the verbs in sentences a–b are not introduced by the word ‘a’ because they are preceded by pronouns. There is another group of Palauan words which are not introduced by the word ‘a’. These group includes words like *tia* (this), *se* (that), etc. These are called **demonstratives**. Some typical examples are given below:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Tia a oluches. | This is a pencil. |
| 2. A ngalek a milil er sei. | The child is playing there. |
| 3. Ngka el chad a sensei. | This person is a teacher. |
| 4. Ngke el chad ng mekerang? | What’s that person doing? |

The above explanation of the distribution of ‘a’ is incomplete. One has to study the internal structure of the Palauan language to know when to use ‘a’.

Vocabulary:

1	omes	see; be seeing
2	ulemes	was/were looking
3	tuobed	come or go out of
4	tilobed	came or got out of
5	medakt	afraid
6	derumk	thunder
7	biskang	spear
8	oteb	bark
9	okerngii	wake him/her/it up
10	ulekerngii	woke him/her/it up
11	cholebedii	hit him/her/it
12	chilebedii	hit him/her/it (past)
13	cholebedak	hit me
14	olekar	awaken
15	meles	fillet (fish)

Practice:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 A ngelekek a medakt a derumk. | My child is afraid of thunder. |
| 2 Ng soak el menga a malk. | I like to eat chicken. |
| 3 Ng soak el menga er a ngikel. | I like to eat the grilled fish. |
| 4 A bilis a oteb er sei. | The dog is barking there. |
| 5 A katuu a smecher. | The cat is sick. |
| 6 A derumk a ulekerngii a ngalek. | The thunder woke up the child. |
| 7 A sensei a chillebedii a ngalek. | The teacher hit the child. |
| 8 Ak ousbech er a biskang el mo er a chei. | I'm using the spear to go fishing. |
| 9 Ak ousbech a oles el mo meles a ngikel. | I use a knife to fillet fish. |
| 10 Aki ousbech a oles el mo meles a ngikel. | We use/need knives to fillet fish. |

Application: Have trainees write simple dialogues between themselves and their host families and converse among themselves.

UNIT 9

TOPIC: Relational Word 'er'

Competency: Understand the uses and functions of the relational word 'er'.

Objective(s) Identify and use the relational word 'er' in sentences.

Grammar Notes: The Relational word 'er' is a widely-used Palauan word which functions to express various types of relationships such as location, time, possession, etc. This word corresponds to the English 'on', 'at', 'from', 'of', 'in', 'to', 'of', 'off', 'for', 'because of', etc.

Examples:

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Ak milsuub er a skuul. | I was studying at school. |
| 2 | A John a chiliuii a hong er a chelii. | *John read a book yesterday. |
| 3 | A sechelik a mle dibus er a blil er a chelii. | My friend was not home yesterday. |
| 4 | A delak a ngar er a sers. | My mother's in the garden. |
| 5 | A sensei a smecher er a tereter. | The teacher is sick with a cold. |
| 6 | A Gloria a oureor er a bangk. | Gloria is working at the bank. |
| 7 | Ng sebechem el okerdak er tiang? | Can you let me off here? |

Note: The relational word 'er' in *er a chelii* does not have a corresponding word in English.

Ak milsuub *er a skuul er a chelii*.
I was studying at school yesterday.

The phrase *er a skuul* 'at school' gives the hearer a more detailed picture of the activity involved by indicating the place(or location). In a similar way *er a chelii* 'yesterday' gives more information which specifies time. The *er a skuul* and *er a chelii* are relational phrases. The two relational phrases that are common in the Palauan language are locational and directional phrases.

Examples of sentences with locational phrases:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | A Sis a mesilek a bilel
er a daob. | Sis is washing her clothes
in the ocean. |
| 2 | A John a dilengchokl
er a kingall. | John was sitting on the
chair. |
| 3 | *Ak mla er a blil a Susan
er a chelii. | I was at Susan's
house yesterday. |
| 4 | A sensei a ngar er a obis. | The teacher is in the
office. |
| 5 | A delak a ngar er a uum. | My mother is in the
kitchen. |
| 6 | A John a mlad er a Guam. | John died in Guam. |
| 7 | A katu a mechiuaiu er a
bebul tebel. | The cat is sleeping on the
table. |
| 8 | A Jan a dengchokl er a
bita er a Jim. | Jan is sitting beside Jim. |
| 9 | A ngalek a milil er a ikr. | The child's playing outside. |

Examples of sentences with directional phrases:

1	A Ben a mle er a blik.	Ben came to my house.
2	A John a mo er a <u>Guam</u> .	John is going to Guam.
3	A Niki a riredেকেল er a daob.	Niki jumped into the water.
4	A mechas a ngilelt er a mesei.	The old lady sunk into the mud.(taro patch)
5	Ak olab a ilumel el mo er a <u>party</u> .	I'm bringing drinks to the party.

Vocabulary:

menguiu	read, be reading
chiliuii	she/he read (past)
tereter	cold, flu
olekerd	let off; unload
okerdak	let me off
mesilek	wash clothes
dengchokl	sit, be sitting
mei	come
mlei	came
uum	kitchen
olab	bring, be bringing
ilumel	drinks
mesei	taro patch
riredেকেল	jumped
ngilelt	sunk into the mud
ulecherechur	laughed
oltobedechur	funny

Practice:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Ak mo er a uchei. | I'll go first (before anyone else). |
| 2 | Ak mo omengur er a uriul. | I'll eat later. |
| 3 | A bilas a ulekiu a delongelet a betok el chelebacheb el mo er a Peleliu. | The boat went to Peleliu passing between many Rock. Is. |
| 4 | A ngalek a Imangel er a demal. | The child is crying for his father. |
| 5 | Ak medeues er a ngikel. | I have an appetite for fish. |
| 6 | A John a ulecherechur er a oltobedechur. | John laughed at the joke. |
| 7 | Aki mle chadecheduch er a betok el mondai. | We talked about lots of problems. |

Application: Have trainees write simple sentences using the relational word '*er*' or relational phrases.

UNIT 10

TOPIC: NOUNS

Competency: Use nouns in sentences correctly.

Objective(s): Ability to identify and use nouns in sentences.

Grammar Notes: Nouns name or make reference to many different types of things or living things. Nouns are divided into concrete and abstract. Concrete nouns are further divided into human and non-human. The prefix 're' is attached to human nouns to make them plural. To pluralize non-human nouns, you have to enumerate or use a modifying word.

Examples:

a. Human nouns

<u>Singular</u>		<u>plural</u>	
chad	person	rechad	people
sechelei	friend	resechelei	friends
buch	spouse	rebuch	spouses
chedil	mother	rechedil	mothers
chedam	father	rechedam	fathers
ekebil	girl	rekebil	girls
buik	boy	rebuik	boys

b. Non-human nouns

bilis	'dog'	betok el bilis	'many dogs'
chedecholl	'mat'	betok el chedecholl	'many mats'

olekang	'pan'	kleim el olekang	'five pans'
kerrekar	'tree'	betok el kerrekar	'many trees'
udel	'grass'	kesai el udel	'few grass'
ngikel	'fish'	betok el ngikel	'many fish'
sualo	'basket'	klde el sualo	'three baskets'

Ng tela el bilis a mlad?
Ng klde el bilis a mlad.

How many dogs died?
Three dogs died.

Ng soam a tela el lius?

How many coconuts do
you want?

Ng kleim el lius.

five coconuts

c. Abstract nouns

reng	heart, spirit
dakt	fear
soal	his/her desire
kirek	my obligation
blekeu	bravery
klechad	human life
klemerang	truth
klengit	sin
klausechelei	friendship

Vocabulary:

kolii	eat it up
killii	ate it up
rullii	make it
rirejlii	made it
metongaki	tall
mesengaked	slim
kedelebuu	fat
udelek	my older sister
merrengék	my younger sister

Practice:

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | A ngalek a menga a ngikel.
A rengalek a milil. | The child is eating fish.
The children are playing. |
| 2 | A malk a kila a beras. | The chicken ate up the
rice. |
| 3 | Ng techa killii a tuu?
Ng malk./ Ng malk
a killii a tuu. | Who ate the banana?
Chickens. The chickens
ate the banana. |
| 4 | A Sam a rilellii a
klengit. | Sam committed a sin. |
| 5 | A bechik a smecher. | My wife is sick. |
| 6 | A ralm a mekelekolt. | The water is cold. |
| 7 | A demak a metongaki. | My father is tall. |
| 8 | A delak a mesengaked. | My mother is slim. |
| 9 | A udelek a kedelebuu. | My older sister
is fat. |
| 10 | A merrengak a kekedeb. | My younger sister
is short. |
| 11 | Ke mla kolii a ngikel? | Have you eaten the fish? |
| 12 | Ke mla rullii a biskang? | Have you made the spear? |

Application: -Write sentences using any nouns that had been learned.
-Identify nouns in sentences.

UNIT 11

TOPIC: Noun Possession

Competency: Use noun possessors correctly.

Objective(s): Identify possessed nouns.
Ability to use singular and Plural possessors correctly.

Grammar Notes: To possess something(nouns), possessor suffixes are attached to the noun stem. There are four sets of possessor suffixes. Each set contains seven different suffixes which correspond to the pronouns of Palauan.

The chart below gives the possessor suffixes which make up the most commonly-occurring set.

possessor suffix	e set: charm 'animal'	u set: reng 'heart, spirit'	i set: buch 'spouse'	a set: char 'price'
1st pers. sg.	<i>chermek</i>	<i>renguk</i>	<i>bechik</i>	<i>cherak</i>
2nd pers. sg.	<i>chermem</i>	<i>rengum</i>	<i>bechim</i>	<i>cheram</i>
3rd pers. sg.	<i>chermel</i>	<i>rengul</i>	<i>bechil</i>	<i>cheral</i>
1st pers. pl. incl.	<i>chermed</i>	<i>rengud</i>	<i>bechid</i>	<i>cherad</i>
1st pers. pl. excl.	<i>chermam</i>	<i>rengmam</i>	<i>bechemam</i>	<i>cheremam</i>
2nd pers. pl.	<i>chermiu</i>	<i>rengmiu</i>	<i>bechemiu</i>	<i>cheremiu</i>
3rd pers. pl.	<i>cheremir</i>	<i>rengrir</i>	<i>becherir</i>	<i>cherrir</i>

More examples of possessed nouns:

Independent Noun	Possessed Form: his/her/its
kar 'medicine'	kerul
bad 'stone'	bedul
kall 'food'	kelel
ker 'question'	keril
duch 'ability'	dechal
chim 'hand'	chimal
ngor 'mouth'	ngerel
secher 'sickness'	secherel
chedil 'chedil'	delal
selokel 'laundry'	selekelel
bedul 'head'	bdelul
chur 'laughter'	cheril
chur 'tongue'	chural
chikl 'neck'	chiklel
chim 'hand'	chimal
ding 'ear'	dingal
oach 'foot'	ochil
uingel 'tooth'	ungelel
chui 'hair'	chiul
sechelei 'friend'	sechelil

Vocabulary:

- milkodir	'killed it'
milsterir	'saw them'
ulekerngii	'woke'
bul	'its smell'

Practice:

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | A chermek el bilis a smecher. | My pet dog is sick. |
| 2 | Ng kmal el ungil a rengul el chad. | He has a very good heart. |
| 3 | Ng meringel a cheral a ngikel. | Fish is expensive. |
| 4 | Ng meruul a ngera a bechim? | What is your spouse making? |
| 5 | Ak milsterir a resechelimer a Oreor. | I saw your friends in Koror. |
| 6 | A derumk a ulekerngii a ngelekek. | The thunder woke my child up. |
| 7 | A bulis a chillebedii a bechil a sechelik. | The policeman hit the spouse of my friend. |
| 8 | Ng chetik a bul a keliu. | I do not like the smell of your food. |
| 9 | Ng mekngit a rengmam er a demal a Jack. | We grieve for Jack's father. |
| 10 | Ng ngera a somiu? | What do you like? |

Application: Write possessed nouns for :

- 1st. person singular
- 2nd. person plural
- 3rd. person plural

UNIT 12

TOPIC: Pronouns

Competency: Use pronouns correctly.

Objective(s): Able to use and identify pronouns correctly.

Grammar Notes: There are two sets of independent pronouns which can occur in the subject position. They are **non-emphatic** and **emphatic**.

	<u>non-emphatic</u>	<u>emphatic</u>	
1st pers sg	ak	ngak	‘I’
2nd pers sg	ke	kau	‘you’
3rd pers sg	ng	ngii	‘he/she/it’
1st pers pl incl	kede	kid	‘we’
1st pers pl excl	aki	kemam	‘we’
2nd pers pl	kom	kemi	‘you’
3rd pers pl	te	tir	‘they’

The emphatic pronouns are always stressed while non-emphatic are not and sometimes show a slight variation in pronunciation. For example, when *ke* ‘you (sg.)’, *kede* ‘you(incl.)’ and *te* ‘they’ appear before vowel-initial verbs, their final *e* is lost in the pronunciation, as in *ke ulemes* [kulemes] ‘you saw’, *kede ousbech* [kedouspech], ‘we need’ *te omengur* [tomengur] ‘they are eating’.

Observe the following brief dialogues when emphatic and non-emphatic pronouns are used as sentence subjects.

- | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Q | Ke mo er ker? | Where are you going? |
| | A | Ak mo er a stouang. | I am going to the store. |
| 2 | Q | Ng techa a mo er a stouang? | Who is going to the store? |
| | A | Ngak a mo er a stouang. | I am going to the store. |
| 3 | Q | A Ben ng mo er a stouang? | Is Ben going to the store? |
| | A | Ng diak. Ngak a mo er a stouang. | No. I'm going to the store. |
| 4 | Q | Ng techa a mo er a stouang? | Who is going to the store? |
| | A | Ng ngak. | It's me. |
| 5 | Q | A Lily a milenga a ngikel. | Lily was eating fish. |
| | A | E kau? | And (how about) you? |
| 6 | Q | Ng techa silsebii a blai? | Who burned the house? |
| | A | Ng ngii. | It's him |
| 7 | Q | Te rua techa a silsebii a blai? | Who burned the house? |
| | A | Ng tir. | It's them. |

Vocabulary:

mililil	fooled around; played
melasm	challenge; try
milengelebed	was hitting
dirk	still
kautoketok	quarrelling
kausechelei	friends

Practice:

1	Ngak a smecher. Ak smecher	I am sick.
2	Ngii a smecher. Ng smecher.	He is sick.
3	Ak ko er a smecher.	I'm kind of sick.
4	Te di mililil er a Guam.	They were only fooling around in Guam.
5	Ke melasem er ngak?	Are you challenging me?
6	Ng techa milengelebed er kau?	Who was hitting you?
7	Ak dirk meluches er ngii.	I'm still writing it.
8	A sensei er ngak a me(i) er a <u>party</u> .	My teacher is coming to the party.
9	A Sam a kautoketok ngii me a Pat.	Sam and Pat are quarrelling.
10	Ngak me a Helen a kausechelei.	Helen and I are friends.

Application: Write simple sentences using pronouns.

UNIT 13

TOPIC: Object Pronouns

Competency: Use object pronouns correctly.

Ojective(s): Identify and use object pronouns correctly.

Grammar Notes: Palauan has a set of affix pronouns which appear as suffixes on verbs. The person or thing affected by the action which the verb(perfective) designates are called object pronouns. The list below show the most frequently occurring forms of each object pronoun. The emphatic pronouns are given for the purpose of comparison.

	object Pronouns	Emphatic Pronouns
1st pers sg	-ak	ngak
2nd pers sg	-au	kau
3rd pers sg	-ii	ngii
1st pers pl incl	-id	kid
1st pers pl excl	-emam	keman
2nd pers pl	-emiu	kemiu
3rd pers pl	-terir	tir

As you can see, the object pronouns and the emphatic pronouns are very closely related in form except for the third person(human) plural. In the list below, see how verb stems plus object pronouns are formed.

Verb Stem + Object pronoun

cholebed	+	ak	'hits me'
cholebed	+	au	'hits you'
cholebed	+	e+terir	'hits them'

The list below gives the perfective forms of *omes* 'see', *medengei* 'know', *oba(ng)* 'carry, take' in the present tense:

	<u><i>omes</i> 'see'</u>	<u><i>medengei</i> 'know'</u>
1st pers sg	mesekek	medengelkak
2nd pers sg	mesekau	medengelkau
3rd pers sg	mesa(ng)	medengeli
1st pers pl incl	mesekid	medengelkid
1st pers pl excl	mesekemam	medengelkemam
2nd pers pl	mesekemi	medengelkemi
3rd pers pl	meseterir	medengelterir

oba(ng) 'carry'

1st pers sg	obekak
2nd pers sg	obekau
3rd pers sg	oba(ng)
1st pers pl incl	obekid
1st pers pl excl	obekemam
2nd pers pl	obekemi
3rd pers pl	obeteterir

Vocabulary:

okisterir	'wake them up'
okisemi	'wake you up'
okisak	'wake me up'
chillebedak	'hit me'
chillebedeterir	'hit them'
chillebedii	'hit someone'

Practice:

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 | A delak a mo okisak. | My mother will wake me up. |
| 2 | Ak mo okisau. | I will wake you up. |
| 3 | A Ben a mo okisterir
a rengalek. | Ben will wake the children up. |
| 4 | A Jane a mo okisemiu. | Jan will wake you up. |
| 5 | A sensei a chillebedak. | The teacher hit me. |
| 6 | A bulis a chillebedii a
sechelik. | The policeman hit my friend. |
| 7 | A ngalek a chillebed
a bilis. | The child hit the dogs. |
| 8 | A rebuik a
chillebedeterir a rekebil. | The boys hit the girls. |

Application: Identify object pronouns.

Write the object pronouns using the following verbs: omoes, omart for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. person singular.

U N I T 14

TOPIC: QUESTIONS

Competency: Know how to ask and answer questions correctly.

Objectives: Ask and answer questions correctly.

Grammar Notes: There are many different ways of asking and answering questions. It will be shown one at a time.

1. **Yes-no questions:** The speaker expects the hearer to answer with *chochoi* 'yes' or *ng diak, ng dimlak, or ng dirkak* 'no'.

The following are typical yes-no questions.

- a. A Ben ng mlo er a skuul? 'Did Ben go to school?'
 - b. Ke mle smecher? 'Were you sick?'
 - c. Te chad er a Siabal? 'Are they Japanese?'
 - d. Ng suebek a rengrir? 'Are they worried?'
 - e. Ng ngar er ngii a kelem? 'Is there any food for you?'
2. The question word *techa(ng)*
The question word *techa (ng)* 'who' is used when the speaker wishes to know the identity of one or more persons involved in a particular event, state, etc.

Examples:

- a. Ng techa sensei er kau? 'Who is your teacher?'
- b. Ng techa mlo er a party? 'Who went to the party?'
- c. Ng techa milosii a president? 'Who shot the president?'

3. The question word *ngara(ng)*

The question word *ngara* 'what' is used when the speaker wants to know the identity of a particular thing (concrete or abstract).

Examples:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Te mesuub a ngarang? | 'What are they studying?' |
| 2. | Ng mo oba ngarang? | 'What is he going to bring?' |
| 3. | Ngara a soam? | 'What do you want?' |
| 4. | Ngara a soal? | 'What does he want?' |
| 5. | Ng mlad er a ngarang? | 'What did he die of?' |
| 6. | Tirke el chad te ngarang? | 'Who are those people?' |

4. The question word *tela(ng)*

The word *tela* 'how much, how many' is used when one wants to know the size or quantity.

Examples:

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Ng tela cheral a beras? | 'How much does the rice cost?' |
| 2. | Ng tela cheremem el bilis? | 'How many dogs do you have?' |
| 3. | Te tela a resechelim? | 'How many friends do you have?' |
| 4. | Ng tela el klok er a chelechang? | 'What time is it now?' |
| 5. | Ke ngilim a tela el biang? | 'How much beer did you drink?' |

5. The question word *ker*

The word *ker* 'where' is used when the speaker wants to find out the location of some action or state.

Examples:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Ng ngar er ker a tik? | 'Where is my purse?' |
| 2. | Te mla er ker a rengalek? | 'Where were the children?' |
| 3. | Te mlo er ker er a elii? | 'Where did they go
yesterday?' |
| 4. | Ng chad er ker a John? | 'Where is John from?' |
| 5. | Ng ruoll er ker a blim? | 'Where is your house to be
built?' |

6. The question word *oingara(ng)*

The word *oingara* 'when' which is never introduced by *a*, is used to ask questions about the time of an event, action, and state.

Examples:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Ke me er oingarang? | 'When are you coming?' |
| 2. | Te mo er a chei er
oingarang? | 'When are they going fishing?' |
| 3. | Ke milsa sechelik
er oingarang? | 'When did you see my friend?' |

Vocabulary:

ruoll	'that has to be done'
milosii	'shot'
mlad	'died'
ngilim	'drank'
milsang	'saw'
milcherar	'bought'
miltik	'found'
soiseb	'enter; begin'

Practice:

1. Ng mesisiich el kerrekar a dort? 'Is Ironwood a strong tree?'
2. Ng meringel a cheral a beras? 'Is rice expensive?'
3. A bail ng mlo dekimes? 'Did the dress get wet?'
4. Ke techang? 'Who are you?'
5. Ngka ng techang? 'Who is this person?'
6. Ke milcherar a ngara er a stoang? 'What did you buy at the store?'
7. Ngara me ng mle kesib a rengum? 'Why were you angry?'
8. Ng mle kesib a rengum er a ngarang? 'What were you angry at?'
9. Ke miltik er a tim er ker? 'Where did you find your purse?'
10. Ng oingera e ng soiseb a skuul? 'When will school resume?'

Application: Use question words to ask questions.

U N I T 15

TOPIC: VERBS

Competency: Understand Palauan Verbs.

Objective(s) Identify and use verbs correctly.

Grammar Notes: It is impossible to discuss everything about Palauan verbs here. Thus, only a small part will be covered for someone who may need basics regarding Palauan verbs, namely *action* and *state*.

Action Verbs

Action verbs describe actions, activities, or events and can be transitive or intransitive. Transitive action verbs name actions involving a doer and a receiver. Intransitive action verbs involve only a doer and no receiver.

Observe transitive actions verbs in the sentences below:

1. A ngalek a *menga* er a ngikel. 'The child is eating the fish.'
2. A Sandra a *meriik* er a delmerab. 'Sandra is sweeping the room.'
3. A mekngit el chad a *milkodir* a mechas. 'A bad guy killed the old woman.'

Examples of transitive action verbs are listed below:

melim	'drink'	melasech	'carve'
melamech	'smoke'	meleng	'borrow'
mengiis	'dig		
omes	'see'		
osiik	'look for'		

Examples of sentences with intransitive action verbs:

1. A John a *milil*. 'John is playing'
2. A demak a *oureor* er a bangk. 'My father is working at the bank.'
3. A rengalek a *mengedub*. 'The children are swimming.'

State Verbs

State verbs specify states, conditions, or qualities which temporarily or permanently characterize persons, animals, or things. State verbs describe the subject and are intransitive.

Observe the sentences below, in which the intransitive state verbs are italicized:

1. A demak a *smecher*. 'My father is sick.'
2. A blil a sechelik a *klou*. 'My friend's house is big.'
3. A eanged a *mekngit*. 'The weather is bad.'
4. AK *songerenger*. 'I am hungry.'
5. A rengalek a *medakt*. 'The children are afraid.'

Other examples of state verbs:

kikiongel	'dirty'
ungil	'good'
metongaki	'tall'
beches	'new'
medinges	'full'
beketekoi	'talkative'

Vocabulary:

cherrodech	'noise'
tolechoi	'baby'
silsebii	'burned'
remurt	'run'
meses	'strong; energetic'

Practice:

1. A buik a *remurt*. 'The boy is running.'
2. A ngalek a *silsebii*
a blai. 'The child burned the house.'
3. A tolechoi a *medakt* a
cherrodech. 'The baby is afraid of noise.'
4. A ngelekek a *mechiuaiu*. 'My child is sleeping.'
5. A eolt a *meses*. 'The wind is strong.'

Application: Identify action and state verbs.

D I A L O G U E S

1. Greetings and Farewells

A Alii, ke ua ngerang? Hello, how are you?

B Ak mesisiich e kau. I am fine and you.

A Ak dirrek el mesisiich.
 Tia mlik el meremang.
 Ak morolung. I am fine, too.
 Here's my ride.
 I am going.

B Mechikung. Good-bye.

A Alii, ke ua ngerang? Hi, how are you?

B Ak mesisiich e kau. I am fine and you!

A Ak mesisiich. Ke mo'r. I am fine. Where are you going?

B Ak mo er a library. I am going to the library.

A Mechikung me a uriul. See you later.

B Me a uriul. Till then.

2. Introduction

Mark:	Sam, ngika Brel.	Sam, this is Brel.
Brel:	Ke ua ngerang?	How are you?
Sam:	Ak mesisiich.	I am fine.
Mark:	A Brel a chad er a omenged.	Brel is a fisherman.
Sam:	Ke olterau a cheldim er ker?	Where do you sell your fish?
Brel:	Ak olterau er a <u>Fisheries</u> .	I am selling at Fisheries.

Jim	Ngike ng techa el metongakl el redil el ngar er a bita er a Barbara?	Who is that tall woman next to Barbara?
Ben	Ng Jen Anderson. Ng dimlak bo mkaodengei er se er a <u>party</u> er a kesus?	She is Jen Anderson. Did you not get to know one another at the party last night?
Ben	Mei. Me kbo kuchotau er ngii. Ng beches el sensei.	Come, let me introduce you to her. She's a new teacher.
Ben	Jen, Ngika Jim. Jim, ngika Jen.	Jen, this is Jim. Jim, this is Jen.
Jim	Ke mle(i) er a oingerang?	When did you come?
Jan	Ak mle(i) er tia el mlo merek el Sandei. <u>or</u> (Ak mle(i) er a Sandei.)	I came last Sunday.

3. TIME

- A Ng tela el klok? What time is it?
- B Ng mochu eim. It will soon be five.
- A Ng ko er a kired el mo
er a blil a James er a
eim el klok. Aren't we supposed to be at
James' house at five o'clock?
- B Ng eim el klok
me a tedobech. Five or five-thirty.
- A Madang dirke klou a taem.
Msall e kuubail e doraël. There is plenty of time.
I'll put on a shirt.
- B Bong.

4 TELEPHONE CALL

(phone rings)

Barbara:	Alii.	Hello.
Fred	Alii, me kungedecheduch er a Alice.	Hello, may I speak to Alice?
Barbara	Msall . . . Alice, ng dengua el leko er kau.	Hold . . Alice, it's a phone for you.
Alice	Alii.	Hello.
Fred	Alice, ng ngak el Fred. Ng diak el soam el mo er a er a Sabadong?	Alice, this is Fred. Would you like to go to the Rock Is. this Saturday?
Alice	Ochoi, ng meketeketang el diak bo er a chelebatcheb.	Yes, I have not been to the Rock Is. for a long time.
Fred	Mada ki e ko ngoikau er a eiud el klok er a tutau er a Sabadong.	We will pick you up at 7:00 in the morning on Sat.
Alice	Ak di ngar er a blai e mengiil.	I will wait at my house.
Fred	Me a tutau .	Until tomorrow morning.
Alice	Sulang.	Thank you.

5 HAPPINESS / UNHAPPINESS

Linda	Ke ko er a dmeu a rengum. (Ke ko er mad el dmeu a rengum.)	You look happy.
Frank	Ng dmeu a renguk e le kngiluu a mlik er chelecha el sils.	I am happy because I got my car today.
Linda	Ng bai derengum.	How fortunate thou are. or (I envy you.)
Frank	E kau. Ngera me ng ko er a di mekngit a rengum.	And you. You look unhappy.
Linda	A delak a smecher e mo er a botk er a klukuk.	My mother is sick and will have an operation tomorrow.

6 ORDERING A MEAL

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| waitress | Ke mla metik er a soam? | Have you found something you like? |
| Ralph | Chochoi, Ng soak a beras me a (ma) cherredoched el ngikel. | Yes, I like rice & fried fish. |
| waitress | Ngera el ilumel a soam? | What drink do you like? |
| Ralph | Ng di ralm. Ak mo melim a kohi er a uriul. | Just water. I will drink coffee later. |
| Waitress | Ng diak el soam a kliou? | Would you like deserts? |
| Ralph | Ngera ngar er ngii? | What do you have? |
| Waitress | Ngar er ngii a tuu me a cake me a pie . | There are bananas, cakes, and pies. |
| Ralph | Ng soak a tuu. | I'd like a banana. |

7 BIRTHDAYS

Patty Ng tela rekim?

How old are you?

Susan Ng etiu.
Ak mo teruich er a
chelecha el me el buil.

Nine.
I will be ten next month.

Patty Ng mo er ngii a tansiobi
er kau?

Are you going to have a
birthday party?

Susan Ng locha. Ak mo oker
er a delak.

Maybe. I am going to ask my
mother.

8 CROWDED MEETING HOUSE

Bob	Larry, ng ngar er ngii a mo dengchokl er tilecha el kingall?	Larry, is someone going to sit on that chair?
Larry	Ng diak.	No.
Bob	Ng sebechek el mo dengchokl er ngii.	May I take the seat?
Larry	Chochoi.	Sure.
Bob	Sulang.	Thank you.

9 MISTAKES

Bruce	Ng mlo er ker a John?	Where did John go?
Laura	Ng mlo er a kerker.	He went fishing.
Bruce	Ng mlo mengereker? (Ng mlo merad a kar.)	He went searching for medicine?
Laura	Ng diak. Ak dilu el kmo ng mlo er a kerker.	No. I said he went fishing.
Bruce	Ng dimlak ungil el rongesau.	I did not hear you well.
Laura	E ngerang. Ng mekngit a oderengesem?	Why? You have problems with hearing?
Bruce	Ng diak. Ng klou a cherrodech.	No. It is noisy.

10 GAMES

George	Kemeduch el oukat?	Do you know how to play cards?
Joe	Ng diak. Ak metitur.	No. I do not know how.
George	Ngera el klekool a omeduch er ngii.	What game do you know how to play?
Joe	Ak meduch er a chess.	I know how to play chess.

11 HEALTH

Jane	Ak rirenges el kmo ke mle smecher.	I heard you were ill.
Cathy	Ak silecher el ta el sandei.	I was sick for a week.
Jane	Ke medenge chisel a Mary? Ng mlo er a botk.	Did you hear about Mary? She had an operation.
Cathy	Ng ua ngerang er a chelechang?	How is she now?
Jane	Ng mla mo oikab. Ng dirke ngara osbitar.	She is a bit better. She is still at the hospital.
Cathy	Kede bai mo odngelii er a kebesengei?	Shall we visit her tonight?

Doctor	Ke klsaki?	What is wrong?
Patient	Ak mekerasm e omudech.	I am cold and vomiting.
Doctor	Ng oingerang e ke mlo uaisei?	When did you begin feeling like that?
Patient	Ng chelecha el tutau.	This morning.
Doctor	Ak mo meskau a kerum. Ke mo olengull.	I will give you medicine. You will have to rest.

12 SPORTS

Phil	Ngera kmal soam el klekool?	What's your favorite sport?
Jack	Ng betok a soak, e ng di kmal el soak a <u>tenis</u> .	I like many, but tennis is my favorite.
Phil	Ke blechoel el <u>outenis</u> ?	Do you always play tennis?
Jack	Ak bai blechoel el omes.	I always watch.

13 ASKING DIRECTIONS

Marl	Alii, ng sebechem el ochotii a rael el mo er a <u>KR Hardware</u> ?	Hello, can you show the way to KR Hardware?
Nancy	Chochoi, ng kmeed er a <u>Post Office</u> el ngara bita el rael.	Yes, it is near the Post Office on the other side of the road.
Marl	Ke kmal el mesaul. Ak dirke mlei me ng diak kudenge rael.	Thank you very much. I just came so I do not know my way.
Nancy	Ngak a dirke edel buil er a kngar er a Belau. Ng betok el basio a diak kudengei.	I have been in Palau only three months. I do not know many places.

Taxi Station	Alii, tia obis er a <u>Taxi</u> .	Hello, this is taxi station.
Caller	Moduruklii a ta er a <u>Taxi</u> el me er a blik.	Send a taxi to my house.
Station	Ngar er ker a blim?	Where is your house?
Caller	Ng ngar er a rebai er a Neco.	It is behind Neco.
	(Ngar er a btelul a chang.)	It is at T-Dock.
Station	Mchielii e ngechikung.	Wait, it will be there.
Caller	Sulang.	Thank you.

14 SAFETY

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| A | Sekid a stouang el ngara bita el rael.

Bo dochar a imeled el ralm. | There's a store across the street.

Let's go buy our water (drink.) |
| B | Bo deiuul er tiang. | Let's cross here. |
| A | Ng diak. Sekid a rael el ngar er se el kired el mo imuul er ngii. | No. There's a crossroad over there which we must take. |
-

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| Scott | Ke ngar er a ngera el mo er a skuul? | How do you go to school? |
| Liz | Ak di merael. | I just walk. |
| Scott | Ng diak mobes el merael er a mobedul a klitechetum. | Do not forget to walk on on your left. |
| Liz | Chochoi. A sensei a dilu er kemam. | Sure. Our teacher told us. |

15 MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

- A Ke rongesii a chad el oukita? Do you hear someone playing a guitar?
- B Chochoi, ng mera el meduch. Yes, he/she is good.
- A Ulekum me ak meduch el oukita. I Wish I knew how to to play a guitar.
- B Ng sebechek el osisecheklau. I can teach you.
- A Ng sebedhed el omuchel er a Sabadong? Can we begin on Saturday?
- B Ng diak. Ak mo mechesang. No. I will be busy. Can we begin on Sunday?
Ng sebedhed el omuchel er a Sandei?
- A Ochoi. Yes.
- B Ke kmal el mesulang. Thank you very much.

16 TAKING A VACATION

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| A | Ke mo er a ulengull er a chelecha el me el buil? | Are you going on a vacation next month? |
| B | Chochoi, ngak me a telungalek er ngak. | Yes, My family and I. |
| A | Komo er ker? | Where are you going? |
| B | Aki mo er a Guam. | We are going to Guam. |
| A | Bai derengmiu. | I envy you. |
| B | Ng diak el sebechem el nguu a ulengellem e kuk bo molengull. | Can't you take time off and take a vacation? |
| A | Ng kmal betok a urerek. A lta e ng mo sebechel er se el me(i) el rak. | I have too many things to do. I may be able to go next year. |

17 RECIPES

Sis Mcheremii tia el demok.

Taste this taro leaf soup.

Sie Ng kmal (el) ungil.
Ng meringel a doruul a demok.

It tastes good.
Is it hard to make?

Sis Ng kmal (el) beot.
Tiakid a babier el ochotii
a omerellel a demok.

It's easy. Here's a recipe.

Sie Ke kmal mesaul. Ak
bai mo rullii a kelam.

Thank you. I will make ours.

18 WEATHER

Karen	Ng ua ngera eanged?	How is the weather?
Ed	Ng kebodel a eanged./ <u>or</u> Ng meringel a sils. Ng meses a eolt. Ng kmal meiusech.	It is cloudy. It is sunny. It is windy. It is very calm.
Karen	Ng soak el mo mesilek.	I'd like to wash.
Ed	Ng ungil el taem e le ng meringel a sils.	It is a good time because it is sunny.
Karen	Ng merang.	It is true.

19 TIDE

Steve	Ng ua ngera dolech?	How is the tide?
Mike	Ng klou a dolech. /or ng meched a chei. Ng cheraches. Ng keriiik. Ng mengeai. Ng klou a chei. Ng bor.	It is high tide. It is low tide. The tide is ebbing. The tide is rising. It's a neap tide. It's a spring tide. The tide is low early in the morning.

Steve	Ng oingerang a ungil taem er a omengereel?	When is the best time for line fishing?
Mike	Ng kebesengei er a klukuk.	Tomorrow night
Steve	E ngerang?	Why?
Mike	Ng orakiruu. Ng sebedhed el koreel a bek el bedengel a ngikel.	It is full moon. We can catch many kinds of fish.

20 DIRECTION OF THE WIND

A Ng ngera delecherul a eolt? What is the direction of the wind?

B Ng ongos. or It is easterly.
A eolt a ongos.

or

Ng ngebard.
Ng diluches.
Ng dimes.
Ng dimesungos.
Ng dimesngebard.
Ng diluchesungos.
Ng diluchesngebard.

It is westerly.
It is from the north.
It is from the south.
It is from the southeast.
It is from the southwest.
It is from the northeast.
It is from the northwest.

G L O S S A R Y

a

ak	'I'
aki	'we'
alii	'hello'
adang	'please'

b

babii	'pig'
bad	'stone'
beches	'new'
bechik	'my spouse'
bedul	'head'
beot	'easy'
bilis	'dog'
biskang	'spear'
blechoel	'always'
blik	'my house'
bong	'go'
buch	'spouse'
bul	'its smell'
buil	'moon'

ch

chais	'news'
chedil	'mother'
cheldecheduch	'event to discuss disputes'
cheroll	'birth'
cherrodech	'noise'
chillebedii	'hit him/her/it'
chillebedak	'hit me'
chillebedeterir	'hit them'
chiliuii	'read it'
chikl	'neck'
chim	'hand'
chochoi	'yes'

chudelel	'her older sister'
chui	'hair'
chur	'tongue; laughter'

d

debong	'let's go'
dengchokl	'sitting'
derumk	'thunder'
di	'only; just'
dibus	'not here'
did	'bridge'
dilu(ng)	'said'
dimlak	'no; did not'
ding	'ear'
dirk	'still; just'
dirrek	'also'
duch	'ability; skill'

e

e	'and; because; then'
eanged	'weather; sky'
elechang	'now'
e ng di	'but'

h

hong	'book'
------	--------

i

ikr	'outside'
ilumel	'drink'
iis	'nose'

K

kall	'food'
katuu	'cat'
kau/ke	'you'
kausechelei	'friends'
kautoketok	'quarelling'
kebodel	'cloudy'
kedelebuu	'fat; obese'
kemeldiil	'funeral'
ker	'question'
killii	'ate it'
kingall	'chair'
klechedaol	'celebration to show ties between two villages'
klok	'clock'
kob	'cup'
kolii	'eat it; have eaten it'

L

le	'because'
lechub	'or'
lengar	'if there is'
lius	'coconut'
lsekum	'if'

M

malk	'chicken'
medakt	'afraid'
melasem	'challenge; try'
mechesang	'busy'
mechiuaiu	'sleep'
me	'and; so'
mei	'come'
meiusech	'calm'

meles	'fillet (fish)'
menguiu	'read, be reading'
mekelekolt	'cold'
mekemad	'war'
mekesokes	'yard'
mekngit	'bad; evil'
mengitaki	'sing'
merang	'true'
mesei	'taro patch'
mesengaked	'slim; thin'
meses	'industrious, active'
merrengak	'my younger sister'
meriik	'sweep'
mesilek	'wash clothes'
mesisiich	'strong; healthy'
metkung	'is dying'
metongaki	'tall'
mle	'was'
milcherar	'bought it'
milengelebed	'was hitting'
molengull	'(you) rest; take time off'
mililil	'was/were fooling around; playing'
mochar	'you buy'
mur	'feast'
milkodir	'killed it'
milosii	'shot (someone)'
milsang	'saw it'
milsterir	'saw them'
militik	'found'
mlad	'died'
mlei	'came'
mlo(ng)	'went'
mo(ng)	'will go; going to'

N

ngasech	'1st. born celebration'
ngikel	'fish'

ngilelt	'sank to the mud'
ngilim	'drank'
ngmasech	'(moon, sun) rise'
ngmelt	'(moon, sun) set; sink (into the ground)'
ngodech	'different'
ngor	'mouth'

0

oach	'foot'
oba(ng)	'have'
obekeul	'his older brother'
obengkel	'with him/her'
ochellel	'his younger brother'
ocheraol	'money-raising party(to buy a house, canoe)'
oingerang	'when'
olekerd	'let off; unload'
okerdak	'let me off'
okerngii	'wake him/her/it up'
okisak	'wake me up'
okisemi	'wake you up'
okisterir	'wake them up'
olab	'bring; have'
olebedak	'hits me'
olebedii	'hits him/her/it'
olekar	'awaken'
olengesei	'help'
oltobede	'funny'
oluches	'pencil(s)'
omechar	'buy, be buying'
omekiai	'obtain from'
omenged	'fishing'
omengur	'dine'
omerael	'trip; traveling'
omart	'hide, be hiding'
omoes	'shoot at, be shooting at'
omuchel	'begin'
orakiruu	'full moon'

osiik 'be looking for'
 oteb 'bark'
 outeliil 'breathe'

R

rak 'year'
 rirebet 'fell'
 rirellii 'made it'
 riredekekl 'jumped'
 ruebet 'fall'
 rullii 'make it'
 ruoll 'that which has to be done'

S

sechelei 'friend'
 sekesius 'prone to swearing'
 sils 'sun'
 sius 'swear word; obscenity'
 soal 'desire'
 soiseb 'enter'

T

te 'they'
 telkib 'a piece of; a little bit of'
 tereter 'cold, flu'
 tilobed 'came or got out of'
 tuobed 'come or go out of'
 tuu 'banana'

U

ua	'like(same as)'
udelek	'my older sister'
udelel	'her older sister'
udoud	'money'
ududek	'my money'
ududel	'his/her money'
ulaol	'floor'
ulekerngii	'woke someone up'
ulemes	'saw'
uluchais	'told'
ungil	'good'
ulecherechur	'laughed'
ulengull	'vacation'
ureor	'work'
urerek	'my work'
uum	'kitchen'

