

## Activity 6

### Word differences in Cree-Innu

Words, as well as pronunciations, can differ among the Cree-Innu languages. One example of this is the word used to make a **negative** sentence, which is quite different depending on the language spoken; however, in all the languages the negative word is always placed before the verb.

#### Instructions:

- ▶ Open the Linguistic Atlas found at [www.atlas-ling.ca](http://www.atlas-ling.ca).
- ▶ Go to the 'at the store' category.
- ▶ Select the phrase "I'm not going."
- ▶ Click on each marker on the map and listen carefully.
- ▶ When you find the speakers listed below, copy the first word on the corresponding line.

#### How is the negative word different for each speaker?

	Negative	
▶ Caroline Gabriel - Innu - Matimekush	_____	ituteian
▶ Kanani Penashue - Innu - Sheshatshiu	_____	tshituteian
▶ Brigitta Piwas Aylward - Innu - Mushuau	_____	nui tshituten
▶ Thomas Poker - Innu - Mushuau	_____	ma nui tshituten
▶ Silas Nabinicaboo - Naskapi - Western	_____	ni-ki-ituhtaan
▶ Margaret Cox - East Cree - North	_____	niki iituhtaan
▶ Candice Diamond - East Cree - South - Coastal	_____	nika uhchi ihtuhten
▶ Leda Corrigan - Plains Cree	_____	nika-itohtān
▶ Minnie McKenzie - Woodland Cree - South	_____	nika-itohtān

#### Answer:

▶ Innu - Matimekush	<b>apu</b>	ituteian
▶ Innu - Sheshatshiu	<b>apu</b>	tshituteian
▶ Innu - Mushuau - Brigitta	<b>ama</b>	nui tshituten
▶ Innu - Mushuau - Thomas	<b>ama</b>	nui tshituten
▶ Naskapi - Western	<b>nama</b>	ni-ki-ituhtaan
▶ East Cree - North	<b>nimui</b>	niki iituhtaan
▶ East Cree - South - Coastal	<b>namui</b>	nika uhchi ihtuhten
▶ Plains Cree	<b>namwāc</b>	nika-itohtān
▶ Woodland Cree - South	<b>namwāc</b>	nika-itohtān

There are two negative words: 'apu' and variations of 'nama'.  
 Note that with 'apu' a different verb conjugation (the conjunct) is used than with 'nama' (the independent) which uses a personal prefix 'ni/n-' and a future marker 'ui' or 'ki/ka'.