

RUNASIMI

Napaykullayki!

na-pay-koo-LYAY-kee · "I greet you, with respect."

*A Course in the Quechua of the Sacred Valley — for
English Speakers, one phrase and one smile at a time.*

Three Levels · Thirty Modules

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Before We Begin — Imaraykun kay kursi

This course has one purpose: to put living words in your mouth. Not grammar, not tables of verb endings — just the phrases the people of the Sacred Valley say to each other every day, so that you can greet, thank, invite, praise, laugh, and say goodbye in **Runasimi**, “the language of the people.”

The Quechua here is Cusco Quechua (Qosqo runasimi), the variety spoken in Písaq, Pampallakta, and Paru Paru — and every word has been reviewed and confirmed to be faithful to the living speech of the valley.

Learn one phrase at a time. Say it out loud, many times, until it feels like yours. Then give it away — the moment a phrase earns its first smile, it belongs to you forever.

How to Read the Sounds

Vowels. a · i · u sound as in Spanish (ah, ee, oo). You will also see e and o near the letter q.

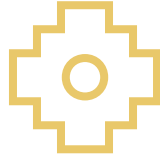
Stress. Almost always on the second-to-last syllable. In our sounds-like guides, the stressed syllable is written in CAPITALS: soo-MAHQ.

q — a deep k, made far back in the throat, the sound of the mountains. **ll** — like the “lli” in “million” (a-lyee-LYAN-choo). **ñ** — like “ny” in “canyon.” **ch** — as in “church.” **h** — breathy, as in “hat.”

t' p' ch' k' q' — the famous Cusco “pops”: stop the air for an instant, then release it with a tiny burst. **th ph chh kh qh** — the same consonants with a soft puff of breath: mikhuy = mee-KHOOT.

Don't worry about perfection. A warm heart forgives a rough q every single time. The fact that you are trying, in their mother tongue, when you walk beside the people of the valley — that is the message. The words are just the doorway.

Level One · Beginner



Level One · Beginner

The first words

Napaykuykuna

First greetings — the words that open every door

Greetings are sacred in the Andes. People greet everyone — on the path, in the chakra, at the market. Learn these first, and you are already halfway home.

Napaykullayki

na-pay-koo-LYAY-kee

I greet you (with respect).

The beautiful traditional greeting. Say it to an elder and watch their face light up.

Allin p'unchay

AH-lyeen P'OON-chay

Good day.

The everyday hello, from morning to afternoon.

Allin tuta

AH-lyeen TOO-tah

Good night.

For the evening and for parting at night.

Wayqey

WAY-qey

My brother. (a man speaking to a man)

The warm word between men who are friends. "Allin p'unchay, wayqey!"

Panay

PAH-nay

My sister. (a man speaking to a woman)

"Napaykullayki, panay." Warm and respectful.

Tura

TOO-rah

Brother. (a woman speaking to a man)

In Quechua the word for "brother" depends on who is speaking. This is the one a woman uses.

Ñaña

NYAH-nyah

Sister. (a woman speaking to a woman)

The word between women — soft, with two gentle ñ sounds.

Masi

MAH-see

Friend / companion.

Carries the warmth of the ayllu — a friend who belongs with you.

P'unchay

P'OON-chay

Day.

Pop the p' — a tiny burst of sound at the start.

Tuta

TOO-tah

Night.

TRY IT — MEETING A FRIEND ON THE PATH

You: Napaykullayki, wayqey! *na-pay-koo-LYAY-kee, WAY-qey*

I greet you, my brother!

Him: Napaykullayki! Allin p'unchay. *na-pay-koo-LYAY-kee! AH-lyeen P'OON-chay*

Greetings! Good day.

Allillanchu?

How are you? — the handshake of the Andes

If you learn only one exchange in your whole life, learn this one. Allillanchu? — Allillanmi! is said a hundred times a day in every community of the valley. It is question, answer, hug, and blessing in four syllables.

Allillanchu?

ah-lyee-LYAN-choo

Are you well? / How are you?

THE greeting. Say it to anyone, anywhere, any time.

Allillanmi

ah-lyee-LYAN-mee

I am well.

The automatic, happy reply.

Qanrí?

qan-REE

And you?

Bounce the question back — this one is stressed at the end.

Imaynallan kashanki?

ee-may-NAH-lyan kah-SHAN-kee

How are you doing?

A fuller, warmer version of the same question.

Allinmi kashani

ah-LYEEN-mee kah-SHAH-nee

I am doing well.

Kusisqa kashani

koo-SEES-qah kah-SHAH-nee

I am happy.

Say it with your hand on your heart. They will feel it.

Allillanchu kanki?

ah-lyee-LYAN-choo KAHN-kee

Are you well?

A slightly fuller way to ask the same warm question.

Aswan allinmi kani

AHS-wan ah-LYEEN-mee KAH-nee

I am feeling better now.

For the day after a cold, or a hard climb — say it with a smile.

Allinllachu

ah-lyeen-LYAH-choo

Are you at peace? / All in harmony?

A deeper greeting — it asks not just about your health, but about your whole life.

Kusi

KOO-see

Joy / gladness.

A small, bright word. You will hear it often once you start listening.

TRY IT — THE EXCHANGE YOU WILL USE EVERY SINGLE DAY

Them: Allillanchu? *ah-lyee-LYAN-choo*

Are you well?

You: Allillanmi! Qanrí? *ah-lyee-LYAN-mee! qan-REE*

I'm well! And you?

Them: Allillanmi. *ah-lyee-LYAN-mee*

I'm well.

Sulpayki!

The golden words — thank you, yes, no, please, forgive me

Gratitude is the heart of Andean manners. These are the words you will reach for a dozen times a day — the ones that make a stranger a friend.

Sulpayki

sool-PAY-kee

Thank you.

Everyday gratitude, deep and from the heart. “Sulpayki, wayqey!”

Anchata sulpayki

ahn-CHAH-tah sool-PAY-kee

Thank you very much.

Urpillay sonqollay

oor-PEE-lyay son-QOH-lyay

“My dove, my heart” — the most tender thank-you.

Deep, old-fashioned Cusco gratitude. Reserved for moments that touch the heart.

Imamanta

ee-mah-MAHN-tah

You’re welcome. (literally: “for what?”)

Arí

ah-REE

Yes.

Manan

MAH-nan

No.

Softened with a smile: “Manan, sulpayki.”

Ama hina kaychu

AH-mah HEE-nah KAY-choo

Please. (literally: “don’t be like that”)

The Quechua way of asking a favor, gentle and humble.

Pampachaykuway

pahm-pah-chay-koo-WAY

Forgive me / excuse me.

Añay

AH-nyay

Thanks! / How lovely!

A warm regional way to say thanks — good for small kindnesses.

Arí nini

ah-REE NEE-nee

I agree. (literally: “I say yes”)

For nodding along wholeheartedly.

TRY IT — RECEIVING A PLATE OF FOOD IN A MOUNTAIN HOME

Her: Mikhuy, wayqey. *MEE-khooy, WAY-qey*

Eat, brother.

You: Anchata sulpayki! *ahn-CHAH-tah sool-PAY-kee*

Thank you very much!

Her: Imamanta. *ee-mah-MAHN-tah*

You’re welcome.

Iman sutyki?

Names, meeting, and welcome — stepping through the doorway

Now you can introduce yourself and step through any doorway in the valley. Drop your own name into the “Sutyqa ...-mi” pattern and practice it until it flows like water.

Iman sutyki?

EE-man soo-TEE-kee

What is your name?

Sutyqa ...-mi

soo-TEE-qah ...-mee

My name is

Slot your name into the blank: Sutyqa Anami — “My name is Ana.” The little -mi means “and I know it to be so.”

Maymantan kanki?

may-MAHN-tan KAHN-kee

Where are you from?

Pisaqpín tiyani

pee-SAHQ-peen tee-YAH-nee

I live in Písaq.

Watch the smiles when a visitor says this one in runasimi.

Haykuykamuy

hay-koo-ee-kah-MOO-ee

Come in! / Please, pass inside.

The word of Andean hospitality, said at every doorway.

Tiyaykuy

tee-YAY-kooy

Please, sit down.

Anchatan kusikuni

ahn-CHAH-tan koo-see-KOO-nee

I am very glad. (“nice to meet you”)

Allin hampuy

AH-lyeen HAM-pooy

Welcome, come in.

The warm welcome offered to someone arriving.

Allin hamusqa

AH-lyeen hah-MOOS-qah

Welcome — you’ve arrived well.

Said to a traveler who has made it safely to your door.

TRY IT — MEETING SOMEONE NEW

You: Napaykullayki! Iman sutyki? *na-pay-koo-LYAY-kee! EE-man soo-TEE-kee*

I greet you! What’s your name?

Her: Sutyqa Anami. Qanrí? *soo-TEE-qah ah-NAH-mee. qan-REE*

My name is Ana. And you?

You: Anchatan kusikuni! *ahn-CHAH-tan koo-see-KOO-nee*

I’m very glad to meet you!

Ayllu

Family & people — the ones you belong to

In the Andes the ayllu is everything — the family, the community, the web of people who hold you. Here are the words for the ones you belong to. Notice that “brother” and “sister” change depending on whether a man or a woman is speaking.

Ayllu

AY-lyoo

Family / community — the ones you belong to.

The big-hearted word: your family and your whole community, all in one.

Mama

MAH-mah

Mother.

Tayta

TAY-tah

Father. (also a respectful “sir”)

Also used warmly for any respected older man.

Wawa

WAH-wah

Baby / small child.

An elder may call you wawa too — a tender “little one.”

Wayqey

WAY-qey

Brother. (a man’s brother)

The word a man uses for his brother — or a warm word between male friends.

Panay

PAH-nay

Sister. (a man’s sister)

The sister of a man.

Tura

TOO-rah

Brother. (a woman’s brother)

The word a woman uses for her brother.

Ñaña

NYAH-nyah

Sister. (a woman’s sister)

The word between women.

Machula

mah-CHOO-lah

Grandfather.

Mantay

MAN-tay

Grandmother.

Masi

MAH-see

Friend / companion.

One who belongs with you — a friend with the warmth of the ayllu.

Ñawpaqkuna

nyaw-PAHQ-koo-nah

The ancestors / the ones who came before.

In the Andes the ancestors walk ahead of us, not behind — they light the path.

TRY IT — GREETING THE GRANDMOTHER OF THE HOUSE

You: Napaykullayki, Mantay! *na-pay-koo-LYAY-kee, MAN-tay*

I greet you, grandmother!

Her: Allillanchu, wawa? *ah-lyee-LYAN-choo, WAH-wah*

Are you well, little one?

You: Allillanmi, sulpayki! *ah-lyee-LYAN-mee, sool-PAY-kee*

I'm well, thank you!

Mikhuy

Food & eating — the warm heart of every Andean home

In the valley, to share food is to share your heart. You will be fed everywhere you go, and a few kind words at the table will earn you smiles for a lifetime. Come to the kitchen and eat.

mikhuy

MEE-khooy

To eat — and also the word for food itself.

One word for both the doing and the meal. “Mikhuy!” is a warm invitation.

mikhuna

mee-KHOO-nah

The food / a meal.

Mikhuyta munankichu?

mee-KHOOT-tah moo-nan-KEE-choo

Would you like to eat?

The kind question you will hear in every kitchen.

Arí, munanin

ah-REE, moo-NAH-neen

Yes, I would like that.

Sumaqmi!

soo-MAHQ-mee

It's delicious!

Say it after the soup — guaranteed joy in the kitchen.

Añay

AH-nyay

Yum! / How tasty! (also a warm “thank you”)

A regional word of delight over good food.

Saksasqa kani

sahk-SAHs-qah KAH-nee

I'm full!

The laughing, polite way to survive Andean hospitality.

Unu

OO-noo

Water.

Ukyay

OOK-yay

To drink.

papa

PAH-pah

Potato — the heart of the Andean table.

The Andes gave the world the potato; here there are hundreds of kinds.

sara

SAH-rah

Maize / corn.

kinuwa

kee-NOO-wah

Quinoa.

The sacred grain of the highlands.

TRY IT — SHARING A MEAL IN THE KITCHEN

You: Mikhuyta munankichu? mee-KHOOT-tah moo-nan-KEE-choo

Would you like to eat?

Guest: Arí, munanin. Sulpayki! *ah-REE, moo-NAH-neen. sool-PAY-kee*

Yes, I'd like that. Thank you!

Guest: Sumaqmi! Saksasqa kani. *soo-MAHQ-mee! sahk-SAHS-qah KAH-nee*

Delicious! I'm full.

Haku!

Everyday verbs — let's go, come, sit, do

A handful of little action words will carry you through markets, kitchens, and mountain paths. Best of all, most of them are invitations — the Andean way is to do things together.

Haku!

HAH-koo

Let's go! / Let's do it together.

One of the most-loved words in the valley. "Haku, wayqey!"

Hamuy!

HAH-mooy

Come!

Hamuychis!

hah-MOoy-chees

Come, everyone!

The -chis ending turns a word toward the whole group.

Haykuykamuy

hay-koo-ee-kah-MOO-ee

Come in! / Please, pass inside.

The word of Andean hospitality, said at every doorway.

Tiyaykuy

tee-YAY-kooy

Please, sit down.

Qatiway

qah-tee-WAY

Follow me.

Kutimuy

koo-tee-MOO-ee

Come back.

Qhaway!

QHAH-way

Look!

Point and share a wonder — the mountains give you many.

Rimariy

ree-mah-REE

Speak up! / Say it!

Gentle encouragement to find your voice.

Pukllasun!

pook-LYAH-soon

Let's play!

Mikhuy!

MEE-khooy

Eat!

Yanapasun

yah-nah-PAH-soon

Let's help / let's do it together.

The spirit of ayni in a single word.

TRY IT — SETTING OFF TOGETHER

You: Haku, wayqey! HAH-koo, WAY-qey

Let's go, brother!

Him: Arí! Hamuy, qatiway. *ah-REE! HAH-mooy, qah-tee-WAY*
Yes! Come, follow me.

Imataq chay?

Things around you — and the magic question that names them all

Here is your best trick for learning fast: point at anything and ask “Imataq chay?” Every answer is a free lesson. These are the everyday things you'll want to name — house, water, market, river.

Imataq chay?

ee-MAH-tahq chay

What is that?

*Your magic learning key — point at anything and ask.
Every answer is a free lesson.*

Wasi

WAH-see

House / home.

Unu

OO-noo

Water.

Qhatu

QHAH-too

The market / the seller's stall.

Llaqta

LYAHQ-tah

The town / the village.

Chakra

CHAHK-rah

The chacra — a field of crops.

Mayu

MAH-yoo

The river.

At night the Milky Way is called the mayu too — the river of stars.

Yarqha

Yahr-qhah

The irrigation channel.

The little canals that carry mountain water down to the fields.

Qocha

QOH-chah

The lagoon / the lake.

Hatun kancha

HAH-toon KAHN-chah

The plaza — the town's great courtyard.

Yachay wasi

yah-CHAY WAH-see

The school (the “house of knowing”).

TRY IT — POINTING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE VILLAGE

You: Imataq chay? *ee-MAH-tahq chay*

What is that?

Her: Qhatu. *QHAH-too*

The market.

You: Imataq chay? *ee-MAH-tahq chay*

And that?

Her: Wasi. *WAH-see*

A house.

Yupay

Numbers & how much — counting, money, and a fair price

Numbers open the market to you. With a few counting words and the little question “Hayk'an?” you can shop, bargain, and even ask for the yapa — that small extra a good seller adds with a smile.

Huk <i>hook</i>	One.
Iskay <i>EES-kay</i>	Two.
Chunka <i>CHOON-kah</i>	Ten.
Pachak <i>PAH-chahk</i>	One hundred.
Waranqa <i>wah-RAHN-qah</i>	One thousand.
Hunu <i>HOO-noo</i>	A million. <i>For the stars, the ants, and the potatoes of the world.</i>
Hayk'an? <i>HAYK-an</i>	How much does it cost? <i>The two words that open every market stall.</i>
Qollqe <i>QOHL-qeh</i>	Money / silver.
Chaninmi <i>chah-NEEN-mee</i>	It's a fair price. <i>A quiet compliment to an honest seller.</i>
Kutichipuway <i>koo-tee-chee-poo-WAY</i>	My change, please.
Yapaykuway <i>yah-pay-koo-WAY</i>	A little extra, please! <i>Ask for the yapa — the small gift a seller adds with a smile.</i>
Rantiy <i>RAHN-teey</i>	To buy.

TRY IT — BARGAINING AT THE MARKET

You: Imataq chay? Hayk'an? *ee-MAH-tahq chay? HAYK-an*
What is that? How much?

Seller: Chunka. *CHOON-kah*

Ten.

You: Chaninmi. Yapaykuway! *chah-NEEN-mee. yah-pay-koo-WAY*

Fair price. A little extra, please!

Seller: Arí! *ah-REE*

Yes!

Tupananchiskama

Goodbyes — until we meet again

Quechua has no cold goodbye. Every farewell is a promise of return and a blessing for the road. Learn these, and you will leave people smiling long after you've gone.

Tupananchiskama

too-pah-nan-chees-KAH-mah

Until we meet again.

The most beautiful goodbye in the valley. Learn it slowly, syllable by syllable — it is worth it.

Paqarinkama

pah-qah-reen-KAH-mah

Until tomorrow.

Minchhakama

meen-chhah-KAH-mah

Until the day after tomorrow!

Quechua has a single word for that — people laugh with delight when you use it.

Allinlla kay

ah-LYEEN-lyah kay

Be well.

Allinta puriy

ah-LYEEN-tah POO-reey

Walk well / travel safely.

Said to someone setting off on the path — perfect for the mountain trails.

Allin puriy

AH-lyeen POO-reey

Good journey / safe travels.

Allin tuta

AH-lyeen TOO-tah

Good night.

For the evening and for parting at night.

Kutimuy

koo-tee-MOO-ee

Come back.

Kutimusaq

koo-tee-MOO-sahq

I will return.

The promise inside every Andean farewell.

Apukuna qhawasunki

ah-poo-KOO-nah qhah-wah-SOON-kee

May the Apus watch over you.

A blessing given by the sacred mountains.

Saminchayoq kachun

sah-meen-CHAH-yoq KAH-choon

May you have blessing and good fortune.

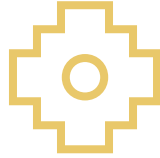
TRY IT — LEAVING AT THE END OF THE DAY

You: Haku, ripusaq. Tupananchiskama! *HAH-koo, ree-POO-sahq. too-pah-nan-chees-KAH-mah*
Well, I'm off. Until we meet again!

Them: Tupananchiskama, wayqey! Allinta puriy. *too-pah-nan-chees-KAH-mah, WAY-qey! ah-LYEEN-tah POO-reey*

Until we meet again, brother! Walk well.

Level Two · Intermediate



Level Two · Intermediate

The living valley

Qhatu

The market — buying, selling, and the little extra

The Sunday market is the beating heart of the valley: color, coca, potatoes in a hundred shapes, and a warm river of Runasimi. A handful of these words will turn you from a tourist into a guest — and might just earn you a yapa.

qhatu <i>QHAH-too</i>	The market / the market stall. <i>The whole bustling world of buying and selling.</i>
rantiy <i>RAHN-teey</i>	To buy.
qhatuy <i>qhah-TOOY</i>	To sell. <i>Same root as qhatu — the seller and the selling are one word-family.</i>
Hayk'an <i>HAY-k'an</i>	How much (does it cost)? <i>The one question every shopper needs. Pop the k' — a tiny burst.</i>
Qollqe <i>QOLL-qeh</i>	Money / silver. <i>The same word means silver — the old wealth of these mountains.</i>
chaninmi <i>chah-NEEN-mee</i>	It's a fair price. <i>Say it with a nod and you've sealed a good deal.</i>
Chaninchay <i>chah-noon-CHAY</i>	To give the fair measure. <i>Fairness is a value here, not just a number.</i>
yapa <i>YAH-pah</i>	The yapa — the little extra the seller gives for free. <i>The soul of Andean commerce. Buy well and a few extra potatoes land in your bag with a smile.</i>
Yapaykuway <i>yah-pay-koo-WAY</i>	Give me a little extra! (my yapa, please) <i>Ask playfully at the end. Nine times out of ten it works.</i>
Kutichipuway <i>koo-tee-chee-poo-WAY</i>	My change, please. <i>Polite and clear — no counting in silence needed.</i>
Chhalay <i>chhah-LAY</i>	To barter / to trade. <i>Older than money, still alive between neighbors: potatoes for maize, wool for cheese.</i>
mikhuna <i>mee-KHOO-nah</i>	Food. <i>What most of the market is really about.</i>

TRY IT — BUYING POTATOES ON MARKET DAY

You: Hayk'an? HAY-k'an

How much?

Her: Chaninmi. chah-NEEN-mee

It's a fair price.

You: Yapaykuway! yah-pay-koo-WAY

Give me a little extra!

Her: Arí. ah-REE

Yes.

You: Sulpayki! sool-PAY-kee

Thank you!

Chakra

The farm and the turning of the farming year

The chakra is more than a field — it is a living relative you feed and who feeds you. Learn the words of the soil and the seasons, and you can stand in a potato furrow and belong there.

Chakra

CHAHK-rah

The chakra — the farm plot / cultivated field.

You don't own the chakra so much as care for it.

allpa

AHL-pah

The soil / the earth (living).

Not dirt — living earth, a gift of the Pachamama.

muhu

MOO-hoo

The seed.

The whole future held in one small thing.

tarpuy

TAR-pooy

To plant / to sow.

Muhuta tarpuy

moo-HOO-tah TAR-pooy

Plant a seed.

A gentle command — and a whole philosophy of hope.

Chakitaklla

chah-kee-TAHK-lyah

The chakitaklla — the Andean foot-plough.

The ingenious foot-plough that has opened these fields for thousands of years.

yapuy

YAH-pooy

To plough.

Often done by a team of three, singing as they go.

wiñay / poqoy

wee-NYAY / poh-QOY

To grow / to ripen.

The two verbs of a plant's life: wiñay is the growing, poqoy the patient ripening.

allay

AH-lyay

To harvest.

Aymoray

ay-moh-RAY

Harvest time.

The season of full baskets and shared thanks.

papa allay

PAH-pah AH-lyay

The potato harvest.

Half work, half festival — the great gathering of the tubers.

wata muyuq

WAH-tah MOO-yooq

The turning of the year (the farming cycle).

The year is a circle here, not a line — plant, grow, harvest, rest, begin again.

TRY IT — PLANTING POTATOES TOGETHER

You: Haku, tarpusunchis! *HAH-koo, tar-poo-SOON-chees*

Come, let's plant!

Him: Arí, muhuta tarpuy. *ah-REE, moo-HOO-tah TAR-pooy*

Yes, plant a seed.

You: Tarpurqani. *tar-poor-QAH-nee*

I planted it.

Him: Sumaqmi! *soo-MAHQ-mee*

Wonderful!

Pacha

Weather and the seasons of the valley

Pacha means the weather, the world, and the time all at once — sky and earth are one word. Up here the sky changes fast: sun, cloud, a burst of rain, and then a rainbow arching over the peaks. Here are the words to name it.

Inti <i>EEN-tee</i>	The sun. <i>Honored as a father and celebrated at Inti Raymi, the great Festival of the Sun.</i>
Para <i>PAH-rah</i>	The rain.
Wayra <i>WAY-rah</i>	The wind.
Phuyu <i>PHOO-yoo</i>	The cloud. <i>Breathe the ph out softly — a puff of air, like the cloud itself.</i>
Chiri <i>CHEE-ree</i>	Cold. <i>The word you'll want at dawn and after sunset in the high valley.</i>
Q'oñi <i>Q'OH-nyee</i>	Warm / cozy. <i>Pop the q' from deep in the throat — the warmth of sun and blankets.</i>
Rit'i <i>REE-t'ee</i>	The snow. <i>It crowns the sacred peaks — the Apus wear it year-round.</i>
K'uychi <i>K'OOY-chee</i>	The rainbow. <i>A powerful sign in the Andes — beautiful and to be treated with respect.</i>
Chirapa <i>chee-RAH-pah</i>	Rain falling in sunshine (a sunshower). <i>That magical bright drizzle — often the very moment a k'uychi appears.</i>
Paray killa <i>pah-RAY KEE-lyah</i>	The rainy season — the time of planting. <i>Roughly the green months from spring — when the chakra goes in.</i>
Aymura <i>ay-MOO-rah</i>	The dry season — the time of harvest. <i>The clear, cold, sunny months — the other half of the valley's year.</i>

TRY IT — A FAST-CHANGING AFTERNOON IN THE HILLS

You: Chiri! Para. *CHEE-ree! PAH-rah*

Cold! Rain.

Her: Parán chayqa, qhepasunchis. *PAH-ran CHAY-qah, qheh-pah-SOON-chees*

If it rains, we'll stay.

You: Allinmi. *ah-LYEEN-mee*

Alright.

Her: Qhaway! K'uychi! *QHAH-way! K'OOY-chee*

Look! A rainbow!

Ukhunchis

The body and health — from head to foot, and how to feel better

From the crown of the head to the soles of the feet, here are the words for the body you walk these mountains in — and the gentle words for when you're tired, hungry, or hurting. The valley heals with plants, patience, and kindness.

uma <i>OO-mah</i>	The head.
ñawi <i>NYAH-wee</i>	The eye.
rinri <i>REEN-ree</i>	The ear.
simi <i>SEE-mee</i>	The mouth (also: the tongue, and language). <i>The same word gives Runasimi — 'the people's mouth,' the Quechua tongue.</i>
maki <i>MAH-kee</i>	The hand. <i>Makiwan ruwasqa — 'made by hand,' the pride of every weaver.</i>
chaki <i>CHAH-kee</i>	The foot. <i>The chakitaklla, the foot-plough, carries this same word.</i>
sonqo <i>SON-qoh</i>	The heart. <i>In the Andes the heart also thinks and remembers — mind and feeling are one.</i>
nanay <i>NAH-nay</i>	The pain / it hurts. <i>Add it to a body part and you can say where it aches.</i>
sayk'usqa <i>say-K'OOS-qah</i>	Tired. <i>Honest and useful after a long climb. 'Sayk'usqa kani' — I'm tired.</i>
yarqasqa <i>yar-QAHS-qah</i>	Hungry. <i>Say it in a valley kitchen and a plate will appear.</i>
hampi <i>HAM-pee</i>	Medicine / remedy. <i>The Hampi wasi is the health post; a hampiq is a traditional healer.</i>
Muña <i>MOO-nyah</i>	Muña — Andean mint, for the stomach and for altitude. <i>A cup of muña tea settles the belly. For wounds ask for matico, and for a cough, wira wira — the valley's little green pharmacy.</i>

TRY IT — WHEN YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL

Friend: Allillanchu? *ah-lyee-LYAN-choo*

Are you well?

You: Manan. Nanay. *MAH-nan. NAH-nay*

No. It hurts.

Friend: Haku, hampi wasi. *HAH-koo, HAM-pee WAH-see*

Come, to the health post.

You: Sulpayki. Aswan allinmi kani. *sool-PAY-kee. AHS-wan ah-LYEEN-mee KAH-nee*

Thank you. I feel better now.

P'unchay

The day and time — dawn to dark, and the two ways to tell of the past

The Andean day runs from the first light over the peaks to the deep starry night. Here are the words for its hours — and a first taste of something wonderful in Runasimi: two different pasts, one for what you saw yourself and one for the stories handed down.

P'unchay

P'OON-chay

The day.

Pop the p' — you'll hear it in 'Allin p'unchay,' good day.

Tuta

TOO-tah

The night.

chawpi p'unchay

CHOW-pee P'OON-chay

Midday / noon.

Literally 'the middle of the day' — chawpi is the center.

Pacha Illariy

PAH-chah ee-lyah-REEY

The dawn / the morning.

'The world lighting up' — the first glow over the mountains.

Ch'isi

CH'EE-see

Dusk / nightfall.

The soft blue hour when the chakra goes quiet.

paqarinkama

pah-qah-reen-KAH-mah

Until tomorrow.

A warm way to part at the end of a day.

Hamuq p'unchaypi...

HAH-mooq p'oon-CHAY-pee

Some day... / on a day to come...

The opener for hopes and promises.

-rqa-

-r-qah-

The witness past — 'I saw it happen.'

Tuck it into a verb for what you witnessed with your own eyes: Tarpurqani — I planted (and I was there).

-sqa

-s-qah

The story past — 'so the story goes.'

The teller's past, for legends and hearsay: Kawsasqa — 'they lived, so it is told.' The magic that opens every willakuy.

Ñawpa pachapi...

NYAW-pah pah-CHAH-pee

Long ago... (once upon a time).

The classic way to begin a tale — you'll hear the story-past -sqa right behind it.

Allin p'unchay

AH-lyeen P'OON-chay

Good day.

The everyday hello, morning to afternoon.

Allin tuta

AH-lyeen TOO-tah

Good night.

For the evening and for parting once it's dark.

TRY IT — PARTING AS NIGHT FALLS

You: Allin tuta, wayqey. *AH-lyeen TOO-tah, WAY-qey*

Good night, my brother.

Him: Paqarinkama! Allinlla kay. *pah-qah-reen-KAH-mah! ah-LYEEN-lyah kay*

Until tomorrow! Be well.

You: Tupananchiskama. *too-pah-nan-chees-KAH-mah*

Until we meet again.

Raymi

Festivals & celebration — the valley in full color

The Andes love a good party. From Inti Raymi to the smallest village feast, a raymi means music, dancing, gratitude, and belonging. Learn these words and you can step straight into the circle.

Raymi

RAY-mee

The festival / a celebration.

The heart-word of this module. Where there is a raymi, there is food, music, and open arms.

Inti Raymi

EEN-tee RAY-mee

The Festival of the Sun.

The great June celebration — the most famous raymi of them all.

Hamuy raymiman!

hah-MOODY ray-MEE-man

Come to the festival!

The warmest invitation in the valley. Say it and mean it.

tusuy

TOO-sooy

To dance.

takiy

TAH-keey

To sing.

Tusunchis

too-SOON-chees

We dance / let's dance.

The -nchis ending pulls everyone in together.

Takinchis

tah-KEEN-chees

We sing.

Waynu

WAY-noo

Huayno — the music and dance of the Andes.

Half of every fiesta is a huayno. Let your feet learn it.

Qhaswa

QHAS-wah

A round dance, sung in a circle.

Everyone links up and turns together — no one dances alone.

Raymichanchis

ray-mee-CHAN-chees

We celebrate the festival.

Añaychanchis

ah-nyay-CHAN-chees

We give thanks.

A feast is never only fun — it is always also gratitude.

Kusisqa karanku

koo-SEES-qah kah-RAN-koo

They were happy.

How every good raymi story ends.

TRY IT — PULLING A FRIEND INTO THE FIESTA

You: Hamuy raymiman, wayqey! *hah-MOoy ray-MEE-man, WAY-qey*

Come to the festival, brother!

Him: Arí, haku! *ah-REE, HAH-koo*

Yes, let's go!

You: Tususunchu? *too-soo-SOON-choo*

Shall we dance?

Away

Weaving & the crafts — made by hand, made with love

In the Andes a textile is not decoration — it is a language. Every pallas tells a story, and every thread was spun, dyed, and woven by human hands. These words open the door to the weavers and their world.

away <i>AH-way</i>	To weave.
awaq <i>AH-waq</i>	Weaver. <i>The women (and men) whose hands hold the whole tradition.</i>
Awasunchis <i>ah-wah-SOON-chees</i>	Let's weave. <i>Said as the loom is set — an invitation to sit and learn.</i>
millma <i>MEEL-mah</i>	Wool. <i>From the sheep, the alpaca, the llama — the beginning of every cloth.</i>
puchka <i>POOCH-kah</i>	The spindle, for spinning thread. <i>You will see it twirling in a weaver's hand while she walks, talks, and laughs.</i>
Allwi <i>AHL-weey</i>	To set the warp — to lay out the threads. <i>The patient first step, before a single row is woven.</i>
Pallas <i>PAH-lyay</i>	The woven motif — the symbols in the cloth. <i>Rivers, stars, lakes, seeds — a pallas is a page you can read.</i>
tulpuy <i>TOOL-pooy</i>	To dye. <i>All from the land: plants, roots, and tiny insects.</i>
Magnu <i>MAHG-noo</i>	Cochineal — the source of deep red dye. <i>A little insect from the cactus gives the most brilliant reds.</i>
Chunpi <i>CHOON-pee</i>	A woven belt / sash. <i>Often the most intricate weaving a person owns.</i>
Makiwan ruwasqa <i>MAH-kee-wan roo-WAHS-qah</i>	Made by hand. <i>The proudest label in the valley.</i>
Munaywan ruwasqa <i>moo-NAY-wan roo-WAHS-qah</i>	Made with love. <i>And the truest one.</i>

TRY IT — ADMIRING A WEAVING AT THE MARKET

You: Imataq chay? *ee-MAH-tahq chay*

What is that?

Her: Pallay. Makiwan ruwasqa. *PAH-lyay. MAH-kee-wan roo-WAHS-qah*

A woven motif. Made by hand.

You: Sumaqmi! *soo-MAHQ-mee*

It's beautiful!

Sonqo

Feelings — the heart that also thinks and remembers

In Runasimi the sonqo, the heart, is where feeling and thought both live. These words let you say how you truly are — and ask others the same, from the heart.

sonqo

SON-qoh

Heart — that also thinks and remembers.

For the Andes, the heart is where the whole person lives.

kusi

KOO-see

Joy / gladness.

llaki

LYAH-kee

Sadness.

Named gently — sadness is welcome to visit too.

phiña

PHEE-nyah

Anger.

Pop the ph — a little puff of breath.

Imaynan kashanki?

ee-MY-nan kah-SHAN-kee

How are you? / How do you feel?

The warm, open question — asking about the heart, not just the day.

Kusisqa kashani

koo-SEES-qah kah-SHAH-nee

I am happy.

Say it with your hand on your heart. They will feel it.

Allinmi kashani

ah-LYEEN-mee kah-SHAH-nee

I am well / I am doing fine.

Aswan allinmi kani

AHS-wan ah-LYEEN-mee KAH-nee

I feel better now.

For after the soup, the rest, or the good news.

Llanp'u sonqo

LYAN-p'oo SON-qoh

A gentle, humble heart.

One of the finest things you can say about a person.

Tukuy sonqoywan

TOO-kooy son-QOY-wan

With all my heart.

Add it to a thank-you and it becomes unforgettable.

Qanwan kuisqa kani

QAHN-wan koo-SEES-qah KAH-nee

With you, I am happy.

Simple, honest, and disarming.

Thak kay

THAK kay

To be at peace / calm.

The quiet contentment after a full and honest day.

TRY IT — ASKING A FRIEND HOW THEY REALLY ARE

You: Imaynan kashanki? ee-MY-nan kah-SHAN-kee

How do you feel?

Her: Kusiſqa kaſhani! Qanrí? *koo-SEES-qah kah-SHAH-nee! qan-REE*

I'm happy! And you?

You: Allinmi kaſhani, tukuy ſonqoywan. *ah-LYEEN-mee kah-SHAH-nee, TOO-kooy ſon-QOY-wan*

I'm well, with all my heart.

Ayni & Mink'a

Working together — the two ways the Andes get things done

Two great words hold the working life of the valley. Ayni is the give-and-take between two people — you help me plant, I help you harvest. Mink'a is the whole community coming together for one big task. Learn to offer your hands, and you belong.

ayni

AY-nee

Reciprocity — mutual help between two, giving and receiving.

The unwritten law of the Andes. What you give comes back to you.

Mink'a

MEEN-k'ah

A community work party — the whole ayllu working as one.

Many hands, one task, and a shared meal at the end.

yanapay

yah-NAH-pay

To help / to serve.

yanapaykimanchu?

yah-nah-pay-kee-MAN-choo

Can I help?

Four syllables that open every door. Learn this one by heart.

Yanapasayki

yah-nah-pah-SAY-kee

I will help you.

Yanapasun / ruwasun

yah-nah-PAH-soon / roo-WAH-soon

Let's help / let's do it.

Said with rolled-up sleeves.

Minkasunchis

meen-kah-SOON-chees

Let's work together.

The call that gathers everyone for the mink'a.

kuska

KOOS-kah

Together.

Kuska kallpasapa qanchis

KOOS-kah kal-pah-SAH-pah QAN-chees

Together we are strong.

The whole spirit of ayni in one line.

kallpa

KAHL-pah

Strength / energy.

Llank'ashanchis

lyan-k'ah-SHAN-chees

We are working.

Said side by side in the chakra.

Huñunakuy

hoo-nyoo-nah-KOoy

To gather, to come together.

The first step of any mink'a.

TRY IT — OFFERING YOUR HANDS IN THE FIELD

You: Yanapaykimanchu? *yah-nah-pay-kee-MAN-choo*

Can I help?

Him: Arí, sulpayki! Yanapasun. *ah-REE, sool-PAY-kee! yah-nah-PAH-soon*

Yes, thank you! Let's do it together.

You: Kuska kallpasapa qanchis! *KOOS-kah kal-pah-SAH-pah QAN-chees*

Together we are strong!

Sumaq Simikuna

Beautiful words — the vocabulary of the heart

Some words you already carry — Ayni, Pachamama, Inti. Here they meet their family: the small, luminous words that make Runasimi one of the warmest languages on Earth. Reach for these when you want to say something beautiful.

Sumaq

SOO-mahq

Beautiful / delicious / fine.

The most useful adjective in the language. Sumaq p'unchay — a beautiful day.

Munaycha

moo-NAY-chah

Lovely / cute / sweet.

The -cha ending makes anything small and dear.

Sonqo

SON-qoh

Heart.

Tukuy songoywan

TOO-kooy son-QOY-wan

With all my heart.

Add it to a thank-you and it becomes unforgettable.

T'ika

T'EE-kah

Flower.

Pop the t' — a little spark of sound.

Inti

EEN-tee

Sun.

Killa

KEE-lyah

Moon.

K'uychi

K'OY-chee

Rainbow.

A sacred sight in the valley — and a beautiful word to know.

Ancha sumaq kanki

AHN-chah SOO-mahq KAHN-kee

You are very beautiful / very fine.

Works for friends, abuelitas, and mountains alike.

T'ika hina sumaq kanki

T'EE-kah HEE-nah SOO-mahq KAHN-kee

You are beautiful like a flower.

Straight out of the huaynos.

Munaywan ruwasqa

moo-NAY-wan roo-WAHS-qah

Made with love.

For a gift, a meal, a whole life.

Willka

WEEL-kah

Sacred.

Kept for the mountains, the rivers, and the moments that deserve it.

TRY IT — A SMALL, SINCERE COMPLIMENT

You: T'ika hina sumaq kanki! T'EE-kah HEE-nah SOO-mahq KAHN-kee

You are beautiful like a flower!

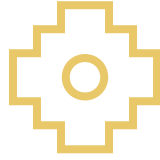
Her: Sulpayki! Munaycha kanki. sool-PAY-kee! moo-NAY-chah KAHN-kee

Thank you! You are lovely.

You: Tukuy sonqoywan. TOO-kooy son-QOY-wan

With all my heart.

Level Three · Advanced



Level Three · Advanced

The heart & the conversation

Yuyay

Opinions & thinking — the head and the heart together

In Runasimi, yuyay is thought, mind, memory, and wisdom all at once — you think with your head and your heart. Here are the words for saying what you believe, agreeing, disagreeing kindly, and honoring another person's view.

Yuyay

YOO-yay

Thought, mind, memory — wisdom of head and heart.

One warm word for everything that happens inside you.

Yuyani

yoo-YAH-nee

I think.

Your opening for any opinion: “Yuyani...”

Iñini

ee-NYEE-nee

I believe.

Deeper than “I think” — what your heart holds true.

Noqapaq

no-QAH-pahq

For me / in my opinion.

The gentle way to make a view your own, not a rule for everyone.

Arí nini

ah-REE NEE-nee

I agree. (literally: “I say yes”)

Huk hinata rikuni

hook hee-NAH-tah ree-KOO-nee

I see it differently.

Disagreement without a fight — the Andean way.

Huk niray, mana aswan

hook nee-RAY, MAH-nah AHS-wan

Different, not better.

A whole philosophy in three words. Keep it close.

Yuyayniyki allinmi

yoo-yay-NEEY-kee ah-LYEEN-mee

Your opinion matters.

Say it and watch someone stand a little taller.

Allinmi kanman

ah-LYEEN-mee KAN-man

That makes sense / it could be so.

Askha yuyay, huk allichay

AHS-khah YOO-yay, hook ah-lyee-CHAY

Many minds, one solution.

The heart of a community deciding together.

Sonqo

SON-qoh

The heart — which also thinks and remembers.

In the Andes the heart is where you truly know things.

Yuyaychay

yoo-yay-CHAY

To give advice / the counsel.

Advice offered gently, never imposed.

TRY IT — TWO FRIENDS SEEING SOMETHING TWO WAYS

You: Noqapaq, allinmi kanman. no-QAH-pahq, ah-LYEEN-mee KAN-man

For me, that makes sense.

Friend: Huk hinata rikuni. *hook hee-NAH-tah ree-KOO-nee*

I see it differently.

You: Allinmi. Huk niray, mana aswan. *ah-LYEEN-mee. hook nee-RAY, MAH-nah AHS-wan*

That's fine. Different, not better.

Friend: Arí nini. Yuyayniyki allinmi. *ah-REE NEE-nee. yoo-yay-NEEY-kee ah-LYEEN-mee*

I agree. Your opinion matters.

Imarayku?

Because & so — asking why and giving your reasons

Once you can ask “why?” and answer “because...”, real conversation begins. Quechua carries “because” inside a little suffix, -rayku, and closes a reason warmly with chaymi — “and that's why.”

Imarayku?

ee-mah-RAY-koo

Why?

The most useful question in any language.

-rayku

-RAY-koo

The suffix “because / for the sake of.”

Tuck it onto the end of a word to mean “because of that.”

chayrayku

chay-RAY-koo

That's why / for that reason.

Your everyday “so...” when giving a cause.

Chaymi

CHAY-mee

And that's why. (the closing of a reason)

Land it at the end of your explanation like a full stop.

Sut'inchasqayki

soo-t'een-chahs-QAY-kee

Let me explain / I'll make it clear.

Pop the t' — a tiny burst of sound.

Sichus... chayqa...

SEE-choos... CHAY-qah

If... then...

The frame for reasoning your way through anything.

Allinmi kanman

ah-LYEEN-mee KAN-man

That makes sense / it could be so.

Rikch'anachiy

reek-ch'ah-nah-CHEEY

To compare / to give an example.

The teacher's move: “let me give you an example.”

Ima sasachakuy?

EE-mah sah-sah-chah-KOOY

What's the problem?

Ask it kindly and the real reasons come out.

Taripayki

tah-ree-PAY-kee

I understand you.

The reward for a good explanation.

TRY IT — EXPLAINING A DECISION ON THE PATH

Friend: Imarayku? *ee-mah-RAY-koo*

Why?

You: Sut'inchasqayki: paran chayqa, qhepasunchis. *soo-t'een-chahs-QAY-kee: PAH-ran CHAY-qah, qhe-pah-SOON-chees*

Let me explain: if it rains, we'll stay.

Friend: Allinmi kanman. Taripayki. *ah-LYEEN-mee KAN-man. tah-ree-PAY-kee*

That makes sense. I understand you.

You: Chaymi. CHAY-mee

And that's why.

Willakuy

Telling a story — the old art of the fireside

Andean nights are made of stories. Willakuy is both the tale and the art of telling it. Here are the words that open a story, carry it forward, turn it — and close it — so you can tell one of your own.

Willakuy

wee-lyah-KOOY

A story / the art of telling.

The word itself is an invitation to gather round.

Willakuq

wee-lyah-KOOQ

The storyteller.

An honored role in every community.

Ñawpa pachapi...

NYAW-pah pah-CHAH-pee

Long ago...

The classic opening — the Andean “once upon a time.”

Kasqa, huk kutinsi...

KAHS-qah, hook koo-TEEN-see

There once was, they say...

The -si tells your listener this comes down from the old ones.

Atoq karqan

AH-tohq KAR-qan

There was a fox.

Atoq the fox is the trickster of a thousand valley tales.

Ñawpaqta... Chaymanta...

NYAW-pahq-tah... chay-MAHN-tah

First... then...

The two connectors that carry any story forward.

Qonqaylla

qon-QAY-lyah

Suddenly / all at once.

Drop your voice, then spring it — the turn of every good tale.

Sasa karan

SAH-sah KAH-ran

It was hard. (in the past)

Every story needs its dark stretch.

Kusisqa karanku

koo-SEES-qah kah-RAHN-koo

They were happy. (in the past)

The turn toward the light.

chayrayku

chay-RAY-koo

And that is why...

The line that gives a tale its meaning.

Tukukun

too-KOO-koon

The end. (literally: “it is finished”)

The soft close every listener waits for.

TRY IT — TELLING A LITTLE TALE TO A CHILD

You: Ñawpa pachapi, atoq karqan. *NYAW-pah pah-CHAH-pee, AH-tohq KAR-qan*

Long ago, there was a fox.

You: Ñawpaqta sasa karan. Chaymanta, kuisqa karanku. NYAW-pahq-tah SAH-sah KAH-ran.
chay-MAHN-tah, koo-SEES-qah kah-RAHN-koo
First it was hard. Then, they were happy.

You: Chayrayku... Tukukun. chay-RAY-koo... too-KOO-koon
And that is why... The end.

Child: Sumaqmi! soo-MAHQ-mee
Beautiful!

Ñawpa

The past & the ancestors — those who walk ahead

In Runasimi the past is not behind you — it walks in front, the ancestors leading the way. Ñawpa is that living past. These words carry a thousand years of a people who never left.

Ñawpa

NYAW-pah

The past — that walks ahead of us.

The ancestors go in front; the future comes up behind. A whole worldview in one word.

Ñawpa machula

NYAW-pah mah-CHOO-lah

The ancestors.

The grandfathers of the grandfathers.

Ñawpaqkuna

nyaw-pahq-KOO-nah

The ancient ones / the ancestors.

Ñawpa noqawan purin

NYAW-pah no-QAH-wan POO-reen

The past walks with me.

Say it slowly — it is a promise, not just a sentence.

Khipu

KEE-poo

The knotted cords — the Inca records.

Whole histories and harvests, kept in knots of string.

Kaypi kawsasqanchis

KAY-pee kaw-sahs-QAN-chees

We have lived here.

Quiet, certain, and older than any border.

Waranqa watakuna

wah-RAHN-qah wah-tah-KOO-nah

A thousand years.

Mallki

MAHLY-kee

A young tree — and the old word for seed and ancestor.

The same word for a sapling and a forefather. Roots and future, one breath.

Machupayata tapusun

mah-choo-pah-YAH-tah tah-POO-soon

Let's ask the elders.

When in doubt, this is always the right move.

Kawsachinchis

kaw-sah-CHEEN-chees

We keep it alive.

Language, weaving, story — alive because we carry it.

Yuyay wañunanmanta

YOO-yay wah-nyoo-nan-MAHN-tah

So that the memory does not die.

The reason behind all of it.

TRY IT — AN ELDER SPEAKING OF THE VALLEY

You: Waranqa watakuna kaypi? wah-RAHN-qah wah-tah-KOO-nah KAY-pee
A thousand years here?

Elder: Arí. Kaypi kawsasqanchis. ah-REE. KAY-pee kaw-sahs-QAN-chees
Yes. We have lived here.

Elder: Ñawpa noqawan purin. Kawsachinchis. NYAW-pah no-QAH-wan POO-reen. kaw-sah-CHEEN-chees

The past walks with me. We keep it alive.

You: Sumaqmi. soo-MAHQ-mee

Beautiful.

Pachamama

Caring for the earth — guardians, not owners

Pachamama is not a poem here — she is alive, and she is family. In the Andes you take only what you need, you give back what you can, and you thank the earth before you eat. These are the words of that ancient courtesy.

Pachamama

pah-chah-MAH-mah

Mother Earth.

The word you may already know — now meet her family of phrases.

Pachamama kawsan

pah-chah-MAH-mah KAW-san

The earth is alive.

Not a metaphor. A fact you live by.

allpa

AHLY-pah

Earth, the living soil.

The ground itself, breathing under your feet.

Mana imapas usunchu

MAH-nah ee-MAH-pas oo-SOON-choo

Nothing is wasted.

The oldest ecology on Earth, in four words.

Kutichipuyku

koo-tee-chee-POOY-koo

We give back. (to the earth)

For everything taken, something returned.

Waqaychaq, mana kaqniyoq

wah-qay-CHAHQ, MAH-nah kaq-nee-YOHQ

Guardians, not owners.

The whole relationship in a single line. Keep it close.

haywarikuy

hay-wah-ree-KOY

The offering to the Pachamama.

The despacho — a gift buried or burned for the earth, especially in August.

K'intu, Ch'allay

K'EEN-too, ch'ah-LYAY

A three-leaf coca bundle; to offer a libation.

You blow softly on the k'intu, then ch'allay — sprinkle a few drops for the earth before you drink.

Pachamama waqaychay

pah-chah-MAH-mah wah-qay-CHAY

Care for the Pachamama.

Uyway, paypas uywasunki

OY-way, PAY-pas ooy-wah-SOON-kee

Care for her, and she will care for you.

The deal at the center of Andean life — reciprocity with the land.

muyu

MOO-yoo

The cycle, the circle — nothing is lost.

Everything returns; the wheel keeps turning.

Añaychanchis

ah-nyay-CHAHN-chees

We give thanks.

Said with the first sip, the first bite, the first harvest.

TRY IT — AN OFFERING BEFORE THE MEAL

You: Pachamama kawsan. *pah-chah-MAH-mah KAW-san*

The earth is alive.

Elder: Arí. Kutichipuyku. *ah-REE. koo-tee-chee-POOY-koo*

Yes. We give back.

Elder: Waqaychaq, mana kaqniyoq. *wah-qay-CHAHQ, MAH-nah kaq-nee-YOHQ*

Guardians, not owners.

You: Añaychanchis, Pachamama. *ah-nyay-CHAHN-chees, pah-chah-MAH-mah*

We give thanks, Pachamama.

Yanapay

Service & leadership — the one who leads, serves

In the Andes, to lead is not to stand above — it is to bend lower and lift others up. These are the words of the varayoc, the servant-leader, and of the humble heart that makes a whole community strong.

yanapay

yah-nah-PAY

To help / to serve.

The root of this whole module. Help freely given is the oldest currency in the valley.

yanapaykimanchu?

yah-nah-pay-kee-MAHN-choo

Can I help?

The most useful sentence a volunteer can carry. Offer it in the chakra and watch doors open.

Yanapasayki

yah-nah-pah-SAY-kee

I will help you.

Yanapay, mana kamachiy

yah-nah-PAY, MAH-nah kah-mah-CHEEY

To serve, not to command.

The quiet creed of Andean authority.

Umalleg yanapan

oo-MAH-lyeq yah-NAH-pahn

The leader serves.

Say it slowly. It turns the whole idea of a boss upside down.

Chay pusak'uq, yanapan

chay poo-sah-K'OOQ, yah-NAH-pahn

The one who leads is the one who serves.

Allin umalleq uyarin

AH-lyeen oo-MAH-lyeq oo-YAH-reen

A good leader listens.

Before the staff, before the speech — the ears.

Llapan umalliyta atin

LYAH-pahn oo-mah-LYEEY-tah AH-teen

Everyone can lead.

In the community the vara passes hand to hand; the turn comes to all.

Hoqarichiy

ho-qah-ree-CHEEY

Lift others up.

To raise someone — a fallen neighbor, a shy voice, a tired heart.

Llanp'u sonqo

LYAHN-p'oo SON-qoh

A humble, gentle heart.

The single most-praised quality in a person here. Pop that little p'.

varayoc

vah-rah-YOQ

The staff-bearer — the rotating community authority.

The one who carries the vara of office. He serves for his season, then hands it on.

ama llulla • ama qella • ama suwa

Don't lie • don't be idle • don't steal — the three ancient rules.

AH-mah LYOO-lyah · AH-mah QEY-lyah · AH-mah SOO-wah

The moral spine of the Andes, still spoken today. Three short vows that hold a people together.

TRY IT — OFFERING YOUR HANDS TO THE FAENA (COMMUNAL WORK DAY)

You: Yanapaykimanchu, wayqey? yah-nah-pay-kee-MAHN-choo, WAY-qey
Can I help, brother?

Him: Arí. Kuska kallpasapa qanchis. ah-REE. KOOS-kah kahl-pah-SAH-pah QAN-chees
Yes. Together we are strong.

You: Yanapasun! yah-nah-PAH-soon
Let's help!

Huk niray

Different, not better — the two halves of one world

Andean thought does not rank; it pairs. Sun and moon, day and night, you and I — different, and precisely because different, complete. These are the words for meeting another as an equal.

Huk niray, mana aswan

hook nee-RAY, MAH-nah AHS-wahn

Different, not better.

The heart of this module. A whole worldview in three words.

Huk hinata rikuni

hook hee-NAH-tah ree-KOO-nee

I see it differently.

How to disagree without a fight — soft, honest, and very Andean.

...hina allin

...HEE-nah AH-lyeen

As important as ...

Put a name in front: it makes one thing the equal of another.

Kuska kanchis

KOOS-kah KAN-chees

We are equal.

kuska

KOOS-kah

Together / side by side.

Neither ahead, neither behind.

yanantin

yah-NAN-teen

Two complementary halves that form one whole.

The deep idea behind it all — like sun and moon, right hand and left.

Tupay

TOO-pay

The meeting — where two become one.

The encounter itself is sacred here, not just the outcome.

iskay uma, huk sonqo

EES-kay OO-mah, hook SON-qoh

Two heads, one heart.

Two ways of thinking, one shared care.

Yuyayniyki allinmi

yoo-yay-NEEY-kee AH-lyeen-mee

Your opinion counts / it matters.

A sentence that honors the person across from you.

Taripayki

tah-ree-PAY-kee

I understand you.

Not just the words — you.

Ashka kunka, huk pacha

AHSH-kah KOON-kah, hook PAH-chah

Many voices, one world.

Arí nini

ah-REE NEE-nee

I agree.

Literally 'I say yes.'

TRY IT — TWO FRIENDS WHO SEE A THING DIFFERENTLY

You: Huk hinata rikuni. *hook hee-NAH-tah ree-KOO-nee*

I see it differently.

Her: Yuyayniyki allinmi. Kuska kanchis. *yoo-yay-NEEY-kee AH-lyeen-mee. KOOS-kah KAN-chees*

Your opinion counts. We are equal.

You: Arí nini. Huk niray, mana aswan. *ah-REE NEE-nee. hook nee-RAY, MAH-nah AHS-wahn*

I agree. Different, not better.

Musqoy

Dreams for the valley — plant a seed, and wait

A dream, in the Andes, is something you plant. You water it, you guard its roots, and someday it becomes a tree that shades a child you'll never meet. Here are the words for hoping out loud.

Mosqoy

MOS-qoy

To dream / to imagine.

The seed of this whole module.

Mosqoyniy...

mos-QOY-neey

My dream is...

Say it, then let your dream fill the silence.

mosqoyniy kan

mos-QOY-neey kahn

I have a dream.

Suyakuni...

soo-yah-KOO-nee

I hope... / I have hope that...

Hope spoken aloud is half of courage.

Hamuq p'unchaypi...

HAH-mooq p'oon-CHAY-pee

Someday... / on a day still to come...

The Andean 'someday' — patient, certain, unhurried.

muhu

MOO-hoo

The seed.

The smallest thing that carries the largest promise.

Muhuta tarpuy

moo-HOO-tah TAR-pooy

Plant a seed / plant a garden.

Advice for a life, not just a field.

Tarpusaq

tar-POO-sahq

I will plant / I will sow.

Saphiykuna ukhupi

sah-pheey-KOO-nah oo-KHOO-pee

My roots run deep.

What holds you when the wind comes.

Saphiykita waqaychay

sah-pheey-KEE-tah wah-qay-CHAY

Guard your roots.

A blessing to a young person leaving home.

Mallki

MAHLY-kee

A young tree / sapling (also 'seed' and 'ancestor').

A tender nickname — and a word that ties the newest shoot to the oldest grandparent.

Mosoq Paqariy

MOH-soq pah-qah-REEY

The new dawn.

Where every dream is headed.

TRY IT — AN ELDER SHARES A DREAM WITH YOU AT DUSK

Her: Mosqoyniy kan. *mos-QOY-neey kahn*

I have a dream.

You: Suyakuni! *soo-yah-KOO-nee*

I hope so!

Her: Hamuq p'unchaypi... Muhuta tarpuy! *HAH-mooq p'oon-CHAY-pee... moo-HOO-tah TAR-pooy*

Someday... Plant a seed!

Sonqoypa Simin

Words of the heart — for someone special

And now, the chapter many learners wait for. Quechua romance is playful, poetic, and sincere — half of Andean music is made of exactly these lines. Deliver them with a smile and an honest heart, and they land like flowers.

Munakuyki

moo-nah-KOY-kee

I love you / I care for you deeply.

The essential one. Warm, true, unmistakable.

Anchata munakuyki

ahn-CHAH-tah moo-nah-KOY-kee

I love you very much.

Munaycha kanki

moo-NAY-chah KAHN-kee

You are lovely.

Light and sweet — a perfect opening move.

Sumaq sipas kanki

SOO-mahq SEE-pahs KAHN-kee

You are a beautiful young woman.

Ñawiykikuna ancha sumaq

nyah-wee-kee-KOO-nah AHN-chah SOO-mahq

Your eyes are very beautiful.

Sonqoyta suwawanki

son-QOY-tah soo-wah-WAHN-kee

You have stolen my heart.

Straight out of the huaynos — she will laugh, and she will remember.

Urpichay

oor-PEE-chay

My little dove.

The classic Andean endearment.

Sonqochay

son-QOH-chay

My little heart.

Yuyashayki

yoo-yah-SHAY-kee

I am thinking of you.

Qanwan kuisqa kani

QAHN-wan koo-SEES-qah KAH-nee

With you, I am happy.

Simple, honest, and disarming.

T'ika hina sumaq kanki

T'EE-kah HEE-nah SOO-mahq KAHN-kee

You are beautiful like a flower.

Tususunchu?

too-soo-SOON-choo

Shall we dance?

For the fiestas. Combine with a hand extended and courage.

Kausachun!

Blessings & the deeper farewell — until we meet again

Quechua has no cold goodbye. Every parting is a blessing and a promise of return. These are the words to leave behind you like seeds — for the road, for the heart, and for the whole good life you shared.

Kausachun Allin Kawsay

kow-SAH-choon AH-lyeen KOW-say

Long live the good life!

The great closing blessing — a toast, a farewell, and a whole philosophy in one breath.

Huk ayllulla kanchis

hook ay-LYOO-lyah KAN-chees

We are one family / one ayllu.

The truest thing you can say to people who have taken you in.

Tupananchiskama

too-pah-nan-chees-KAH-mah

Until we meet again.

The most beautiful goodbye in the valley. Learn it slowly, syllable by syllable — it is worth it.

Paqarinkama

pah-qah-reen-KAH-mah

Until tomorrow.

Allinlla kay

ah-LYEEN-lyah kay

Be well.

Allinta puriy

ah-LYEEN-tah POO-reey

Walk well / travel safely.

Said to someone setting off on the path — perfect for the mountain trails.

Tukuy sonqoywan

TOO-kooy son-QOY-wan

With all my heart.

Add it to a thank-you or a goodbye and it becomes unforgettable.

Kutimusaq

koo-tee-MOO-sahq

I will return.

Not if — when. That is how the Andes says farewell.

Saminchayoq kachun

sah-meen-CHAH-yoq KAH-choon

May you have blessing and good fortune.

A warm parting wish for someone dear.

Apukuna qhawasunki

ah-poo-KOO-nah qhah-wah-SOON-kee

May the Apus watch over you.

The mountains themselves keeping an eye on your road.

Munakuykichis

moo-nah-kooy-KEE-chees

I love you all.

For the whole family gathered at the gate.

Mosoq Paqariy

MOH-soq pah-qah-REEY

The new dawn.

The closing phrase of the whole series — every goodbye is also a beginning.

TRY IT — LEAVING THE COMMUNITY AT THE END OF YOUR STAY

You: Sulpayki tukuy sonqoywan. Kutimusaq! *sool-PAY-kee TOO-kooy son-QOY-wan. koo-tee-MOO-sahq*

Thank you with all my heart. I will return!

Them: Allinta puriy, wayqey. Tupananchiskama! *ah-LYEEN-tah POO-reey, WAY-qey. too-pah-nan-chees-KAH-mah*

Walk well, brother. Until we meet again!

You: Kausachun Allin Kawsay! *kow-SAH-choon AH-lyeen KOW-say*

Long live the good life!

Yuyana Rapi — Pocket Cheat-Sheet

The essentials, in one place — carry them in your pocket.

Runasimi	English
Napaykullayki	I greet you (respectful)
Allin p'unchay, wayqey!	Good day, my brother!
Allillanchu? — Allillanmi. Qanrí?	How are you? — I'm well. And you?
Sulpayki — Imamanta	Thank you — You're welcome
Arí / Manan	Yes / No
Ama hina kaychu	Please
Iman sutyiki? — Sutyiqá ...-mi	What's your name? — My name is ...
Pisaqpin tiyani	I live in Písaq
Haykuykamuy! Tiyaikuy.	Come in! Have a seat.
Haku! / Hamuy!	Let's go! / Come!
Mikhuyta munankichu?	Would you like to eat?
Sumaqmi!	Delicious! / Beautiful!
Saksasqa kani	I'm full!
Imataq chay?	What is that?
Wawakuna, hamuychis!	Children, come!
Ancha allin! Kusa!	Very good! Great!
Munakuykichis	I love you all
Tukuy sonqoywan	With all my heart
Munakuyki	I love you
Tupananchiskama!	Until we meet again!

Kayqa qallariyllanmi — this is only the beginning. Tukuy sonqoywan, tupananchiskama.