

The repetitive prefix vs. English “again”

Willie Myers
May 16 2024
lakwarihwí:saks

Roadmap

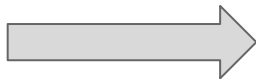
1. What is the repetitive?
 2. Comparing English “again” and Kanien’kéha repetitive
 3. Takeaways
-

What is the repetitive?

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

Katá:wens.

‘I’m swimming.’

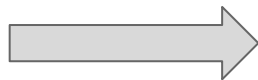


What is the repetitive?

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

Katá:wens.

‘I’m swimming.’



Skatá:wens.

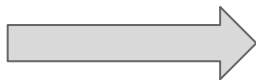
‘I’m swimming **again**.’

What is the repetitive?

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

Katá:wens.

‘I’m swimming.’



Skatá:wens.

‘I’m swimming **again**.’



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

What is the repetitive?

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

Wahawennahnó:ton’
‘He read it.’

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

What is the repetitive?

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

Wahawennahnó:ton’
‘He read it.’

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

la’keiatewennátahse’
‘I called her.’

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

So the repetitive is just like “again”?

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

Kowá:nen ka'warakarí:ta wà:rake'.

'He ate a big steak.'

Sok nòn:wa kítkit **saha'**wà:rake'.

'And then he ate chicken.'

So the repetitive is just like “again”?


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

Kowá:nen ka'warakarí:ta wà:rake'.

'He ate a big steak.'

Sok nòn:wa kítkit **saha**'wà:rake'.

'And then he ate chicken.'



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

So the repetitive is just like “again”?

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

Kowá:nen ka'warakarí:ta wà:rake'.
'He ate a big steak.'

Sok nòn:wa kítkit **saha**'wà:rake'.
'And then he ate chicken.'



...for the first time
that day!

Sok ó:nen teiona'taratsikhè:tare **sà**:rake'.
'Then, he ate cake.'



...for the first time
that day!

The repetitive

≠

“again”

Roadmap

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

The difference between “again” and “s-”

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

again

Subject-Verb-Object

Verb-Object

repetitive s-

Subject-Verb-Object

Verb-Object

Verb

The difference between “again” and “s-”

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

again

Subject-Verb-Object

Verb-Object

repetitive s-

Subject-Verb-Object

Verb-Object

Verb

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

English “again”: [SVO]

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

[Mary ate a cookie].

 [Mary ate a cookie]
again.

Kanien'kéha repetitive: [SVO]

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

Wa'khní:non'.
'I bought it.'

 **S**akhní:non'.
'I bought it **again**.'

English “again”: [VO]

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

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

English “again”: [VO]

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

Mary [kicked the ball].



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

BUT...

Mary [played soccer].



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

Kanien'kéha repetitive: [VO]

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

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

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

English “again”: ✗ [V]

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

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

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

Kanien'kéha repetitive: [V]

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

É:ri wà:keke'.

I [ate] cherries.'

 Sok o'wà:ron **sá:**keke'.

'And then I [ate] meat.'

Kanien'kéha repetitive: [V]

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

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

Kó:r ienhataweia'te'.

Paul [will go in].'

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

'And then Mary [will go again].'

Kanien'kéha repetitive: [V]

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

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

Wahshanishonhshawi'tsherahní:non'.

You [bought] a ring.'

 Sok **s**aiehna'ta'tsherahní:non'.

'Then she [bought] a purse.'

 Sok **s**akhiatonhsherahní:non'.

'Then I [bought] a book.'

Kanien'kéha repetitive: [V]

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

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

Wahsh**anishonshawi'tshera**hní:non'.

You [bought] a ring.'

 Sok **saiehna'ta'tshera**hní:non'.

'Then she [bought] a purse.'

 Sok **sakhiatonshera**hní:non'.

'Then I [bought] a book.'

The repetitive
even works with
noun
incorporation!







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

Roadmap

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

Takeaways

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

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

Why does this matter?

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

Niawenkó:wa

- Konwaronhiá:wi Helen Norton and Katerí Deer
- Tsowén:te Cross, Shona'tsó:wane Diabo, and the Thursday KOR group
- Akwiratékha' Martin and Mary Onwá:ri Tekahawáhkwen McDonald
- Wíshe Mittelstaedt and Kanontienénhtha' Brass
- Luis Alonso-Ovalle, Alan Bale, and Jessica Coon
- Terrance Gatchalian and Katya Morgunova
- Rotinikhrowánens
- Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center