Getting Started with the
Passamaquoddy-Maliseet Language Portal

The Portal contains an extensive collection of language resources. Dictionary entries for Passamaquoddy-Maliseet words, with English translations. Entries have all or some of the following features:

- Passamaquoddy-Maliseet word and its translation into English
- Example sentences using the entry word, with translation
- Notes about the word and cross-references to other entries
- Audio recordings by native speakers of the word and example sentences
- Links to video recordings in which the word is used by speakers
- Additional information, such as part of speech, plural, other forms of the word, word-stems, variants, and English keywords that link to related words

Video recordings documenting natural group conversation and activity, with transcripts and subtitles in Passamaquoddy-Maliseet and English. In many videos, words in the subtitles are linked to their dictionary entries.

Links to other language resources.

Search capability for all Passamaquoddy-Maliseet and English content.

Reference documents about the language, including complete verb conjugations.

This Quick Guide will help you get started using the dictionary, the videos, and the other resources the Portal offers. A video User’s Guide is also available on the Portal home page.

Take time to enjoy exploring all the possibilities!
Finding a Passamaquoddy-Maliseet or English Word

Search: In the “Search” box in the right-hand sidebar, type the word you are looking for, in Passamaquoddy-Maliseet or in English. This feature looks for whole Passamaquoddy-Maliseet words. For example:

Searching for “wikuwam” will find the entry for this word, other entries containing wikuwam, and video transcripts in which the word is used.

The Search feature looks for whole English words, too, and also finds the same word with an added -s, -es, -ed, or -ing.

Searching for “sing” will find sing, sings and singing (but not sang or sung).

The results of the Search are listed in three columns:

• **Entry**: the dictionary entry or video in which the word is found (click on the word to see the full entry)
• **English Concepts**: the English keywords associated with that entry
• **Excerpt**: places where the word is used in context in the entry

The first results in the list are those most relevant to the search term. The remaining results include videos or entries in which the search term is used in a sentence or somewhere else in the entry, even when the entry word itself is unrelated to your search term (lahkalusonihikon for example, in the search results below).

For some words, this general search produces a large number of results. Click on the **Advanced Search** link to refine your search.
Use the Advanced Search link to refine your search by entering a search term in one or more of the fields on the page. Advanced Search will find entries with exact matches for partial words or whole words or phrases. The results of an Advanced Search list entry words with their definitions, for the entries in which the search term is found.

**Hint:** Experiment and take time to play with the Advanced Search feature—by using one or more fields—in order to narrow down your search. For example:

Search for “salt” in the Definition field with “verb” in the Part of Speech field to find ‘salawehtun ’s/he salts it’ and salawehpukot ‘it tastes salty.’ If instead you use “noun” in the Part of Speech field, you will get different results, including salawey ‘salt’ and supeq ‘salt water.’ You can also search for “salt” in the Keyword field.

Search for “hikon” in the Entry field along with “noun” in the Part of Speech field to see how this word-ending is used in Passamaquoddy-Maliseet names of tools and other functional objects.

You can find English or Passamaquoddy-Maliseet words, phrases, and partial words in the Example Phrase fields at the bottom of the Advanced Search page, to see how they are used in sentences and how they are translated into the other language. **Hint:** Partial words usually produce more results than whole words or phrases.

Enter a whole or partial Passamaquoddy-Maliseet word in the Passamaquoddy-Maliseet Example Phrase field. For example, enter “nomiy” or “nemiy” (a stem of the verb nomiyal) to see how forms of the verb meaning “see” are used in Passamaquoddy-Maliseet sentences.

Enter a whole or partial English word in the English Example Phrase field. For example, enter “love” to find sentences with love, loved, glove, plover, etc.

**Note:** You can search for certain frequently used English words—such as on, for, by, this, not—in the Keywords field.
Other Features of the Portal

Videos: The “Videos” tab at the top of the page takes you to a listing of all the video clips on the Portal.

The videos have subtitles in both English and Passamaquoddy-Maliseet, and you can choose to watch with captions in one or both (or neither) of these languages. In many videos, underlined words in the captions are linked to the relevant entry in the dictionary.

Word-building: These are short video clips that show how Passamaquoddy-Maliseet words are put together from meaningful parts (prefixes, roots, and endings). A video that includes all of the clips is listed under the Videos tab.

Noun and Verb Charts: These charts show all the forms of Passamaquoddy-Maliseet nouns and verbs. The Guide to Noun & Verb Charts explains their use.

Numbers: This chart shows the system of Passamaquoddy-Maliseet cardinal numbers (1, 2, 3…), ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd…), and other number forms.

Dictionary Introduction: This is the introduction to the book version of the dictionary. Consult this document for detailed information about the Passamaquoddy-Maliseet language.