

## **Thank you**

I believe that the word “thank you” is over used unnecessarily. When a person is truly grateful, it is difficult to say the words. There are no words to describe “thank you” when you really mean it. Tears are great identifiers. The body language speaks for itself when you are truly grateful!

We say thank you when someone opens the door for us, when we are given something to eat, when we get a ride, when we get coffee, when groceries are carried or when someone is kind to us. Are we really thankful/grateful or is it courteous? How about when we received help when we really need it? How about when a loved one passes away? Are we thankful for the assistance we receive from others? People often have low self-esteem when a loved one passes away. It is humiliating\embarrassing to ask for “help” when you really need it. It is difficult to ask for help.

Inuit have a hard time saying thank you to their relatives. Thanking a relative is not necessary as the help is expected because they are supposed to help without being thanked or asked. Thank you comes into play when we receive help that we really need from non-family members. Thanking a relative is considered rude and “out of place” because help is expected from relatives. Instead of “thank you” people tend to do favors or assist others when help is needed. That’s how you repay people you have “thanked” but not mentioning it but by helping others instead. Help others...just like the time you needed help. Help even if you are not asked. Remember, asking for help is extremely difficult to ask for when you really need it! Inuuqatigiittiarniq is one of the IQ principles that GN practices. ( Respecting others, relationships and caring for people).

Thank you or am I grateful that you took the time to read this article?

By **Elijah Tigullaraq**  
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Appitak Enuaraq was kind enough to add the following to this article.

When thanking a relative, it had to be in a different form of thanks and often times it would be returning the favour in one form or another. Without the words “Thank you” a gesture of one kind or another such as a very “pride filled smile” was more of a thank you than any one can express.

A thank you was often expressed in words to anyone if “you don’t say thank you, you will be personally dysfunctional as a result” meaning that if there were a time that all your children were saved by an individual, a thank you would be in tears and that going on without the expression of thank you in this case would eventually mean your own downfall.

There were small talks and salutation that were often expressed to children in order for them to be appreciative of anything and everything.

Salutations such as good-bye were never expressed as well as it had a connotation of “good riddance” or this is the last time I’ll ever see you and therefore good-bye. Our salutation to that effect is “here you are” with great hopes of meeting that person again in healthy states.

Therefore when giving salutations in Inuktitut, it is not only displaced but also the salutation in Inuktitut are what comes closest to the English salutation and therefore may not have the same response as would be expected of “Good Morning” since when we say “Ullaakut” we are simply referring to the time of day. And in reality the word Ullaakut has no substance unless complimented with another word as “beautiful, peaceful, delightful, miserable etc.

Written by **Appitak Enuaraq**  
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