The Possum's Tail
Prepared by WCU Cherokee Language Program
and Kituwah Preservation and Education Program

O\u0113\u0142\u0131  \u0132ll
utsedsdı  ga-nidada
possum  his-tail
The Possum's Tail

O\u0113\u0142\u0131  \u0132\u0131\u0130  \u0132ll
utsedsdı  ga-nvhida  ga-nidada
possum  he-long.adj  his-tail
Possum had a long tail.

\u0163\u0132\u0137\u0142\u0131  \u0132ll,
ulaseganatsidi  ga-nidada
it-bushy  his-tail
Possum had a bushy tail.

\u0163\u0172\u0142\u0131  \u0142\u0177\u0137  \u0141\u0177\u0130.
nogohilv  ts-u-dalvkti  ts-u-dodakwdi
always  past-he-brag  past-he-proud
He was proud of it and he was always bragging about it.

i\u0163\u0174 \u0163\u0175\u0144\u0177 E\u0131 \u0163\u0175\u0144\u0177.
vsgino  agotisgvi'ı
and.so  what.he.saw
possum  he-dance

\u0163\u016b\u0175\u0177\u0175\u0172\u016c \u0163\u0175\u0177\u0131

ts-u-dvyuge'e  tsisdu
past-he-jealous  rabbit
Rabbit would watch Possum dance and he became jealous of what he saw.

\u0163\u0175\u0177\u0131  \u0163\u0175\u0131  tsisdu  no  tsagohle
rabbit  now  he.was.told

\u0142\u0131\u0175\u0131\u0177\u0175\u0172\u016c \u0142\u0163\u0175\u0177\u0175\u0131

tsunotsaladi  unalsgisdii'

Rabbit was told to announce a dance.
“ダウン”
osda-dv
agwahti
good.one
for.me.to.sit

約
yi-sgi-nela
yi-g-ena
conditional-you>me-give
conditional-I-go

約.
ts-u-dvne'î
past-he-say
"I'll go if you save me a good seat," said Possum.

had
Z
WWS
dan
hswωvî

hadu
no
taladu
nigalasdodi

ts-u-nasune
past-he>him-hire
because

had
JΛωββαγ

osda
didasdoyesgi

good
barber

約
WWST.
tsi-gese'î
taladu'i
past-was
cricket

Now Rabbit hired Cricket because Cricket was a good barber.

ウシ
ugitsvda
sunale
after (night is over)
morning

WWS

ts-u-wulutse
taladu

past-he-arrive.there
cricket

約
約.

utsedsdi
ts-uw-envsv'i

possum
?-his-home

The next morning, Cricket arrived at Possum's home.
Possum laid down with his eyes closed as his tail was being combed.

Cricket cut Possum's hair to the roots while pretending to comb it.

Possum found the good seat that had been prepared for him.

The singers began to sing.
"TOLWS  OWLO  HHWOT,"
nanuwd-odu  u-lasiwi  tsi-nidadv'i
look-how-pretty  it-painted  my-tail

GHWOT  OWLO.
ts-a-disge'i  utsedsi
past-he-saying  possum
"Look at my beautiful tail," Possum was saying.

WLO  JHBVT.
sdaya  ts-uny-yets'eu
hard  past-they-laugh
They really laughed at him.

RLW  OSOS  YW  JSWHT
elada  wi-d-u-kana  kila  ts-u-delahose'i
below  where-he-looked  until  past-he-realized

RGC.OO  PD  SHWOT.
n-u-yuwanvna  gehv  ga-nidadu'i
?-he-without.hair  was  his-tail
When Possum looked down, he realized he didn't have any hair on his tail.

Z  JSWHT  SASOJO
no  ts-u-dehose'i  dunudunahina
now  past-he-embarrassed  without.saying.anything

JJLTL'O  HBVT.
ts-u-dasagwahla  ts-u-yets'eu
past-he-rolled.up  past-he-grinned
Now he was so embarrassed that, without a word, he started grinning and rolled up into a ball.