

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

ᵐᵛᵏᵗᵗ **ᶑᵏᵏᵏ**
utsedsdi ga-nidada
possum his-tail
The Possum's Tail

ᵐᵛᵏᵗᵗ **ᶑᵐᵗᵏ** **ᶑᵏᵏᵏ**
utsedsdi ga-nvhida ga-nidada
possum he-long.adj his-tail
Possum had a long tail.

ᵐᵛᵗᵗᶑᶓᵗᵗᵗ **ᶑᵏᵏᵏ**,
u-lasganotsidi ga-nidada
it-bushy his-tail
Possum had a bushy tail.

ᵏᵗᵗᵗ **ᶑᵏᵏᵐᵗ** **ᶑᵛᵏᵏᵏ.**
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.

ᵗᵗᶑᶓᶓ **ᵗᵗᵗᵗᵗ** **ᵐᵛᵏᵗᵗ** **ᵗᵛᵗᶑᶓᵗᵗ.**
vsgino agotisgv'i utsedsdi alsgisgv'i
and.so what.he.saw possum he-dance

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

ᵏᵗᵗᶑ **ᶑ** **ᵒᵗᵗᵗ**
tsisdu no tsagohele
rabbit now he.was.told

ᶑᶑᵒᵗᶑᵗᵗ **ᵐᵐᵗᵗᶑᶓᵗᵗ.**
tsunotsaladi unalsgisdi'i
to.announce dance
Rabbit was told to announce a dance.

᎔᎔᎔
 osda-dv
 good.one

ᎃᎃᎃ
 agwahti
 for.me.to.sit

ᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎ
 yi-sgi-nela
 conditional-you>me-give

ᎎᎎᎎ,
 yi-g-ena
 conditional-I-go

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

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tsisdu	no	taladu	ts-u-nasune	nigalasdodi
rabbit	now	cricket	past-he>him-hire	because

ᎎᎎᎎ
 osda
 good

ᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎ
 didasdoyesgi
 barber

ᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎ
 tsi-gese'i
 past-was

ᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎ.
 taladu'i
 cricket

Now Rabbit hired Cricket because Cricket was a good barber.

ᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎ
 ugitsvda
 after (night is over)

ᎎᎎᎎ
 sunale
 morning

ᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎ
 ts-u-wulutse
 past-he-arrive.there

ᎎᎎᎎ
 taladu
 cricket

ᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎ
 utsedsdi
 possum

ᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎᎎ.
 ts-uw-envsv'i
 ?-his-home

The next morning, Cricket arrived at Possum's home.

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tsunasine
past-he-lie.down

ᏆᏅᏍᏩ

utsedsdi
possum

ᏆᏍᏈᏍᏩ

tsidukatasde
past-pl-he-close.eyes

ᏆᏂᏆᏆᏆ

tsi-g-vkage'i
past-he-prone

ᏆᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

atsitawo'ihe
he.get.hair.brushed

ᏆᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

ga-nidadv'i
his-tail

Possum laid down with his eyes closed as his tail was being combed.

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tsunasdetsv'i
to.the.roots

ᏆᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

tsuwasdedasge
all.the.way

ᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

a-sdoyesgv
he-cut

ᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

a-latawosgv
he-comb

ᏆᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

u-yelvhv'i
he-pretend

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

ᏆᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

ts-uw-atahe
past-he-found

ᏆᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

osda
good

ᏆᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

u-wahti
he-where.sit

ᏆᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

agadanvisdanelv'i
it.was.prepared.for.him

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

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ani-nogisdisgi
they-singers

ᏆᏆᏍᏈᏆᏆ

ts-un-alenvhe
past-they-began

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ts-uni-nogisdane
past-they-sang

The singers began to sing.

"ᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ,
nanuw-odu	u-lasiwi	tsi-nidadv'i
look.how-pretty	it-painted	my-tail

ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ.
ts-a-disge'i	utsedsdi
past-he-saying	possum

"Look at my beautiful tail," Possum was saying.

ᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ.
sdaya	ts-uni-yetse'i
hard	past-they-laugh

They really laughed at him.

ᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ
elada	wi-d-u-kana	kila	ts-u-delahose'i
below	where.he.looked	until	past-he-realized

ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ.
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.

ᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ
no	ts-u-dehose'i	dunudunahina
now	past-he-embarrassed	without.saying.anything

ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ	ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ.
ts-u-dasagwahlale	ts-u-yetse'i
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.