

## Some Ways of Expressing "almost / just / barely" etc.

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### 1. First pers. sing. imperative -Ay + *démek* – "Coming close to where ..."

Used for events that almost happened, but did not happen (or have not yet happened).

بۇ كىتابنى ئوقۇپ بولاي دەپ قالدیم.

I've almost finished reading this book.

ئۇنىڭدىن مەسلىھەت سوراي دەپ خىجىل بولۇپ سورىمىدىم.

I almost asked him for advice, but then I felt embarrassed and didn't ask.

ئۇ قىز ساقىيىي دېگەندە كېسىلى يەنە قوزغىلىپ قالدى.

When the girl was almost well, the sickness broke out again.

دۇكاننى تاڧاي دەپ تۇرۇشۇمغا ئېسىمگە ھېلىقى سومكا كەلدى.

When I was about to close the shop, that bag came to my mind.<sup>1</sup> (Instead of the construction with *turmush*, one could also simply say ... *taqay dégende...*).

Note the **personification** of things in the following examples. The sentences are worded as if the things spoke themselves:

ئۇن تۈگەي دەپ قالدى.

The flour has almost run out. (Lit.: The flour said "I'm finishing.")

ياز كىرەي دەپ قالدى.

Summer has nearly come. (Lit.: Summer said "Let me go in.")

### 2. Converb (adverbial) -*Kili* + *tas* (*tas-tas*) + *qalmaq* – "almost / nearly"

**Or: Nounphrase + -*KA* + *tas* (*tas-tas*) + *qalmaq* – "almost / nearly"**

Used for negative events.<sup>2</sup>

مەن يىقىلىپ كەتكىلى تاس قالدیم. \ مەن يىقىلىپ كېتىشكە تاس قالدیم.

I almost fell over.

ئۇ پاسپورتىنى ئەكېلىشنى ئۇنتۇپ قالغىلى تاس قالدى.

He almost forgot to bring his passport.

مەن كەلمىگىلى تاس-تاس قالدیم.

I nearly didn't come.

### 3. Positive + negative converb (adverbial) -*A* + particle -*la*– "just before"

The event described in this was is about to happen; the event that is expressed by the main verb (below: telephone ringing, wind blowing) happens just before it.

<sup>1</sup> Hoshur: *Sarang* p. 21f.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Tömür / Lee p. 288.

مەن ئىشخانغا كىرىپ ئولتۇرا-ئولتۇرمايلا تېلېفون جىرىڭلىدى.  
When I got to the office, the telephone rang just as I was about to sit down.<sup>3</sup>

قاراڭ، 2-ئاي كىرە-كىرمەيلا ئىللىق شامال چىقۇۋاتقىنى، بازار چۆرگىلەپ يۈرگۈچە  
مەھەللىگىزدە لەڭلەك چىقارسىڭىز بولمامدۇ؟

Look, February has not even begun and a warm wind is blowing already; rather than  
roaming the market, you could make the kite fly in your neighborhood, couldn't you?<sup>4</sup>

#### 4. Nounphrase + *-KA + az qalmaq* – "little remaining / left"

Used when a certain point in time or space, or a certain event is almost reached.

بۇ ئىشنى پۈتتۈرۈشكە ئاز قالدى.

There is little left to finish this thing. / This is almost done.

بايرامغا ئاز قالدى.

There is not much time left until the festival. / The festival is close.

#### 5. Nounphrase + *-KA + yéqin qalmaq* – "to get / be close to ..."

Used similarly to the above, perhaps rarer.

بىز ماي قاچىلاش پۈنكىتىغا يېقىن قالغاندا، ...

When we were getting close to the gas-station, ... / When we were almost at the gas-  
station ...

ئاش ئاخىرلىشىشقا يېقىن قالغاندا، تۇزغا ئىككى پارچە نان چىلانغان چىنىمۇ  
يېتىپ كىردى.

When the food was almost finished, a bowl with two pieces of nan soaked in salt was  
also brought in.<sup>5</sup>

#### 6. Adverb *aran (aran-aran)* – "hardly / only / barely"<sup>6</sup>

Used like the English equivalents.

بۇ ئاياغنى ئاران ئۈچ ئاي كىدىم.

I wore these shoes barely three months.

مەن ھېرىپ قېلىپ، دەرسنى ئاران-ئاران سۆزلىدىم.

I was so tired that I could barely give the lesson.

#### 7. Adverb *emdi (emdila)* – "(just) now / only just"

(ئۇ) قازا قىلغاندا تېخى ئەمدىلا 26 ياشتا ئىدى.

When she died, she had only just become 26 years old.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> From Tömür / Lee p. 291.

<sup>4</sup> Hoshur: *Burut Majirasi* p. 29.

<sup>5</sup> From Yulghun.com.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. Yulghun.com.

### 8. Connector *dégüdek* – "approximately / virtually / almost"

This connector is postposed, i.e. it stands after the word it qualifies.

ئۇ دائىم دېگۈدەك كېلىپ تۇرىدۇ.  
He almost always comes.  
ئۇلار ھەممىسى دېگۈدەك كەلدى.  
Almost all of them came.<sup>8</sup>

### 9. Infinitive *-(I)sh + bilen* – "when ... had barely finished"

Used when one action follows another immediately.

... تېلېگراممىنى ئوقۇپ بولۇش بىلەن ...  
(He) had barely finished reading out the telegram, when ...<sup>9</sup>  
... ھويلىغا قەدەم بېسىشىمىز بىلەنلا ...  
As soon as we stepped into the courtyard ...<sup>10</sup>

### 10. Negative converb *-mAstin / - mAy* – "not having finished"

ئۇنىڭ گېپى ئاخىرلاشماستىنلا ...  
He had not finished talking, when ...<sup>11</sup>

### 11. Nounphrase + *-KA* + verb *temshelmek* – "be about / get ready to"

Used when about to do something (trip, visit, festival).  
Typically unsuccessful, and followed by "but".

مەن سىزنى يوقلاشقا تەمشەلگەندىم، لېكىن ئۆيگە مېھمان كېلىپ قالدى.  
I had just gotten ready to visit you, but then guests came to my house.  
ئاتاۋۇللا بۇ قېتىمىمۇ دۇدۇقلاپ قالدى، لېكىن تەن بەرمەي سۆزلەشكە  
تەمشەلدى ...

— بولدى قويۇڭ، \_ دېدى ئىدارە باشلىقى ئۇنىڭ سۆزىنى ئۈزۈپ ...  
This time, too, Atawulla fell into stammering, nevertheless, without giving in, got ready to talk [or: was about to answer] ...  
– Stop it, said the department head, cutting him off, ...<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> From radio broadcast.

<sup>8</sup> From Yulghun.com.

<sup>9</sup> Ötkür: *Iz* p. 350.

<sup>10</sup> Hoshur: *Qirliq istakan* p. 84.

<sup>11</sup> Hoshur: *Qirliq istakan* p. 81.

<sup>12</sup> Qahar: *Wapa* p. 59.