Hókwextset te toltí:lqel qes thá:yttset kw'e sqwéltel
We are using the dictionary and building sentences

Let's build (and translate) basic sentences to more complex sentences by finding words and phrases in the dictionary. Let's start with a 'template'[1] and fill it in with words you are choosing from the dictionary.

Important note: Do not translate directly from xwelítemqel to Halq'eméylem. Find sample sentences in the dictionary (even if they have different words) to get a sense for the pattern that is correct. Ask an elder/experienced teacher.

1. The 'basic' sentence
verb or adjective + pronoun ending (if applicable)

verb or adjective	pronoun ending
totí:lt	tset
ts'tl'ém	

[1] (note that this is a rough guideline for 'basic' sentences. Especially in fluent speech and storytelling, you might find different patterns. Consider a simple comparison in English:
"Big bear jumped on the frog" vs "on the frog jumped Big bear". Which one is the 'more neutral' sentence?)

2. Adding more elements

verb or adjective + pronoun ending that matches the 'participants' (who is doing what to whom?) *I jump. I see you. He sees me. We look at them. He eats an apple... etc)*

verb or adjective	pronoun ending	determiner	noun	xwelítemqel
xwoyíwel		te	shláli	
th'exwot	es	te	awkw'	

Ts'tl'émetes te spáth.   He jumped on the bear
Ts'tl'ém te spáth   The bear jumped

<u>note</u>: when the verb or adjective is just having the action done 'by itself or onto itself', the noun is the subject. If the verb or adjective has a marker (like -t, -et, etc) that indicates it is done onto others or another thing (linguists call this 'transitive')

3. Adding even more elements

verb or adjective + pronoun ending that matches the 'participants' (who is doing what to whom?) Add descriptive words (adjectives) or other 'participants'.

verb or adjective	pronoun ending	determiner	adjective	noun	determiner	noun
Ts'tl'émet	es	te	tsqwá:y	pípehó:m	te	spáth

tstl'émetes te tsqwá:y pípehó:m te spáth   The green frog jumped on the bear
Ts'tl'émetes te spáth.   He jumped on the bear
Ts'tl'ém te spáth   The bear jumped

4. combining sentences with conjunctions: 'that' or 'because'

you can extend a sentence by saying 'that' or 'because': *I am tired because.... he is happy that....*   **that: kw's**   **because: tl'o kw's** (see BG 832)

that/ because I   kw'els   … tl'o kw'els (or also tl'ekwels)
that/ because you   kw'ás   … tl'o kw'as
that/ because he/she/it/they   kw'ses   … tl'o kw'ses
that/ because we   kw's tset   … tl'o kw's tset
that/ because you folks   kw's elep   … tl'o kw's elep

verb or adjective	pronoun ending	conjunction	verb	determiner	noun
st'á:yx̱w	tsel	tl'o kw'ás	ékw'elexw	tel	leklí