

In English I was, well--I could speak very fluent English. I mean I say my words pretty well. Enunciation is pretty clear. Compared to some of the different tribes today with a little bit of accent on their own tribal language. However, I remember one time when I was in my first grade when I was just enrolling for school. A cousin of mine and I were in the same grade. And we enrolled one time and the first day of school the teacher asked, "How many of you can count to ten?" Well everybody can count to ten in first grade, so I raised by hand. And said, "I can count to ten." So my cousin raised his hand and said, "I can count to fifty." Then, I raised by hand and said, "I can count to one hundred." My cousin raised his hand again and said, "I can count to a hundred and fifty." So here I come again. "I can count to a hundred and fifty-one." So the teacher called on us and said, "All right, why don't you start counting." Neither one of us could count to ten. That's something we couldn't get used to. We knew how to count but sometimes we sub--had to substitute our--the English numbers for the--you know, the Indian tongue.

(In other words, you really could count--)

I really could count. Yes. I could, but as--oh I guess--I could have counted in English, but it would have taken the whole hour to do it.

(Why didn't you say it in Comanche?)

Well, sometimes I did just to count to twenty-five. They would call on me. She'd said, "That was enough."

(Because the white teachers couldn't understand you?)

Because they couldn't understand me or nobody in the classroom couldn't either except for my cousin. We were the only Indian students in the class at the time.

(Only two Comanches there?)