

S/he’s Thinking About (It)

Reviewed by JW Webster

a²¹da²²nv⁰te²³ha²

/a²¹/, v.tp-o, Lexical Root, JW p.5, CED p.5-6

PRC	-a ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²³ h/a ²	Present	
	*1 st Pers. Lowfall Tone shift only happens in Present Tense.	*ga ² da ²² nv ¹¹ te ²³ ha ²	<i>I’m thinking about it.</i>
		ji ²² ya ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²³ ha ²	<i>I’m thinking about him/her.</i>
		a ²¹ gwa ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²³ ha ²	<i>S/he’s thinking about me.</i>
		ha ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²³ ha ²	<i>You’re thinking about it.</i>
		hi ²² ya ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²³ ha ²	<i>You’re thinking about him/her.</i>
		ja ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²³ ha ²	<i>S/he’s thinking about you.</i>
		a ²¹ da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²³ ha ²	<i>S/he’s thinking about it.</i>
		a ²¹ ga ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²³ ha ²	<i>S/he’s thinking about him/her.</i>
NCMP	-a ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² sg-	Past	
		ga ² da ²² nv ⁰ te ²² sgv ²³ ?i ²	<i>I was thinking about it.</i>
		ji ²² ya ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² sgv ²³ ?i ²	<i>I was thinking about him/her.</i>
		ha ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² sgv ²³ ?i ²	<i>You were thinking about it.</i>
		a ²¹ da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² sgv ²³ ?i ²	<i>S/he was thinking about it.</i>
		Other	
		ga ² da ²² nv ⁰ te ²² sgo ³³ ?i ²	<i>I think about it.</i>
		a ²¹ gwa ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² sgo ³³ ?i ²	<i>S/he thinks about me.</i>
		ji ²² ya ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² sgo ³³ ?i ²	<i>I think about him/her.</i>
		ga ² da ²² nv ⁰ te ²² sge ³³ sdi ²	<i>I’ll be thinking about it.</i>
		gv ²¹ ya ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² sgo ³³ ?i ²	<i>I think about you.</i>
		gv ²¹ ya ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² sge ³³ sdi ²	<i>I’ll be thinking about you.</i>
		a ²¹ da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² sgo ³³ ?i ²	<i>S/he thinks about it.</i>
		a ²¹ ga ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² sgo ³³ ?i ²	<i>S/he thinks about him/her.</i>
CMP	-a ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² hl-	Past	
		a ²¹ gwa ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² hlv ²³ ?i ²	<i>I thought about it. (or) S/he thought about me.</i>
		ji ²² ya ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² hlv ²³ ?i ²	<i>I thought about him/her.</i>
		ja ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² hlv ²³ ?i ²	<i>You thought about it. (or) S/he thought about you.</i>
		hi ²² ya ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² hlv ²³ ?i ²	<i>You thought about him/her.</i>
		u ²¹ da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² hlv ²³ ?i ²	<i>S/he thought about it. (or) S/he thought about him/her.</i>
		a ²¹ ga ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² hlv ²³ ?i ²	<i>S/he thought about him/her.</i>
		Future	
		da ² ga ² da ²² hmv ⁰ te ²² hli ²	<i>I will think about it.</i>

		ta²da²²hnv⁰te²²hli²	You will think about it.
		a²¹da²²hnv⁰te²²hli²	S/he will think about it.
		Future Command	
		ga²da²²hnv⁰te²²hly²²ʔi²	I shall think about it.
		ha²da²²hnv⁰te²²hly²²ʔi²	May you think about it!
		a²¹da²²hnv⁰te²²hly²²ʔi²	S/he shall think about it.
		o²¹sda²da²²hnv⁰te²²hly²²ʔi²	S/he and I shall think about it.
IMM	-a²da²²hnv⁰tv²³l/a²	Command	
		ha²da²²hnv⁰tv²³la³	Think about it!
		Immediate Past	
		ji²ga²da²²hnv⁰tv²³la²	I just thought about it.
		ji²ha²da²²hnv⁰tv²³la²	You just thought about it.
		cha²da²²hnv⁰tv²³la²	You just thought about it.
		ja²¹da²²hnv⁰tv²³la²	S/he just thought about it.
INF	-a²da²²hnv⁰te²hd/i²	Basic Infinitive	
		a²²gwa²da²²hnv⁰te²hdi²	For me to think about it.
		ji²²ya²da²²hnv⁰te²hdi²	For me to think about him/her.
		ja²da²²hnv⁰te²hdi²	For you to think about it.
		hi²²ya²da²²hnv⁰te²hdi²	For you to think about him/her.
		u²²da²²hnv⁰te²hdi²	For him to think about it.
		a²²ga²da²²hnv⁰te²hdi²	For him/her to think about him/her.
		sgwa²da²²hnv⁰te²hdi²	For you to think about me.
		gv²²ya²da²²hnv⁰te²hdi²	For me to think about you.

Notes: This verb is used equivalently to the English phrase “thinking *about* something.” The verb uses the Outsourced Reflexive in an interesting way illustrative of the Cherokee thought process about Subject/Object relationships and Reflexive actions. Frequently, translated-as-Intransitive Cherokee verbs will—at their core—be built *and understood* as Reflexive and Transitive verbs in Cherokee. This Transitive verb,¹ translated literally, means approximately “he is thinking himself,” or “he is [making] himself think.” In this context, a person’s inner willpower is idealized as the Subject, and the person *themselves* is also the Object—the Subject “actor” is the spirit or mind within the person who is thinking, and the Object is the person’s own mind. So a person isn’t just “thinking,” they are “thinking themselves” in the same way they might “wash” themselves. This is a common pattern—Cherokee frequently uses Reflexive Transitive constructions for expressions whose English equivalents are Intransitive.²

¹ The verb is categorized as Intransitive in the CED, but the verb regularly takes a Direct Object—the thing *thought about*. JW Webster tells me Mr. Feeling tended to categorize verbs as Transitive or Intransitive based on the transitivity of the English equivalent. However, there are many Cherokee phrases that are understood transitively, but translate as an Intransitive English equivalent. As for this verb, this still doesn’t explain why this particular verb was categorized Intransitive in the CED—because “thinking about” something is still a transitive expression in English, there is a *thing thought about*.

² JW told me that, as a child learning English as a second language, he had a habit of expressing simple intransitive ideas reflexively and being corrected for it by schoolteachers. For example, as a child he might have said a ball was “bouncing *itself*” instead of just saying “it’s bouncing.” He said it took him a while to drop that habit.

Beyond that, the Root Morpheme for “mind” or “thought” is paired with the Applicative, resulting in an approximate literal meaning of “he is [making] himself apply his mind to (it).” It is most easily translated into English, then, as “thinking *about*” something. In terms of usage, this verb is *not* used to express specific beliefs or opinions—instead, *eli’a*, *uwohiyuhi*, or *ayelvsga* would be used.

Root Formula:

					Approx. Literal Meaning(s)
/ a²d(a²²d) /	+	/ a²nv⁰t /	+	/ e²²h /	“He is Minding Himself About It” “He is Making Himself Apply His Mind to It” “He is Minding About it To Himself” (JW) “He is Applying His Mind To It Himself”
<i>Outsrc. Reflex</i>		<i>“Mind,” “Think”</i>		<i>Adv. Suff.</i>	
				<i>Applicative</i>	
				/ a² /	
					=

Sentences:

Gado usdi ha²da²²hnv⁰te²³ha? / what / is it like / you are thinking about it / <i>What are you thinking about?</i> (CED)	Gv²¹ya²da²²hnv⁰te²³sgo³ nidugijvhnisv’i. / I think about you / daily / <i>I think about you every day.</i>
Yi²ga²da²²hnv⁰te²²sgv⁴ akinalvgo nigohilv’i. / when I’m thinking about it / I become angry / always / <i>I always get mad when I think about it.</i>	Lvhiyus hi²²ya²da²²hnv⁰te²²sgo³³?i²? / ever? / you think about him or her / <i>Do you ever think about him?</i>
Ji²²ya²da²²hnv⁰te²²sgv²³i⁰wv⁰dv³³ nahiyu jigesv⁴⁴?i². / I was definitely just thinking about him / then / when it was / <i>I was really just thinking about him the other day!</i>	

Related Words: “S/he Feels,” u²¹da²²hnv⁰ta², No. 609; “S/he’s Knowing (It),” u²¹hnv⁰ta², No. 670; “She’s Remembering (It),” a²¹hnv⁰da²di³?a², No. 201.