

It is Bouncing, S/he is Limping

Reviewed by JW Webster

a²¹da²de³³ga²

/a²¹/, v.i., Lexical Root, JW p.1, CED p.1

NCMP*	-a ² da ² de ³³ g-	Present	
		ga ² da ² de ³³ ga ²	I'm limping.
		ha ² da ² de ³³ ga ²	You're limping.
		a ²¹ da ² de ³³ ga ²	S/he's limping.
		Past	
		ga ² da ² de ³³ gv ²³ ?i ²	I was limping.
		ha ² da ² de ³³ gv ²³ ?i ²	You were limping.
		a ²¹ da ² de ³³ gv ²³ ?i ²	S/he was limping.
		Habitual	
		ga ² da ² de ³³ go ³³ ?i ²	I limp.
		ha ² da ² de ³³ go ³³ ?i ²	You limp.
		a ²¹ da ² de ³³ go ³³ ?i ²	S/he limps.
		Future	
		ga ² da ² de ³³ ge ³³ sdi ²	I'll be limping.
		ha ² da ² de ³³ ge ³³ sdi ²	You'll be limping.
		a ²¹ da ² de ³³ ge ³³ sdi ²	S/he'll be limping.
CMP	-a ² da ² di ²³ nv ³² s-	Past	
		a ²¹ gwa ² da ² di ²³ nv ³² sv ²³ ?i ²	I limped.
		ja ² da ² di ²³ nv ³² sv ²³ ?i ²	You limped.
		u ²¹ da ² di ²³ nv ³² sv ²³ ?i ²	S/he limped.
		Future	
		da ² ga ² da ² di ²³ nv ³² si ²	Then I will limp.
		ta ² da ² di ²³ nv ³² si ²	Then You will limp.
		dv ²² da ² di ²³ nv ³² si ²	Then S/he will limp.
IMM	-a ² da ² du ¹¹ g/a ²	Command	
		ha ² da ² du ¹¹ ga ²	You Limp!
	-a ² da ² de ³³ n/a ²	Immediate Past	
		ga ² da ² de ³³ na ²	I just limped.
		ha ² da ² de ³³ na ²	You just limped.
		a ²¹ da ² de ³³ na ²	S/he just limped.
INF	-a ² da ² di ²³ nv ³² d/i ²	Basic Infinitive	

		a ²² gwa ² da ² di ²³ nv ³² di ²	<i>For me to limp.</i>
		ja ² da ² di ²³ nv ³² di ²	<i>For you to limp.</i>
		u ²² da ² di ²³ nv ³² di ²	<i>For him/her to limp.</i>

NOTES: This particle-based verb literally describes the act of “going on one [leg].” The “limping” meaning probably arose by lexicalization first, and the “bouncing” meaning probably arose afterwards due to the “bouncing” motion of a limping person as they walk. Interestingly, the verb contains nothing that specifically references the legs or feet of a person. Instead, the “one leg” meaning is accomplished by a frozen *singular* 3rd Person Pronominal /a²/ *in the root*, paired with the morphemes /di²/ and /a²di²/, meaning “from” and “affixed to,” respectively.¹ Then, the verb root is completed by the “Going” Adverbial Suffix /e³³g/ to denote movement. The end result is a verb meaning literally to “go from a single affixed point”—the “single affixed point” understood as a single *leg* or *foot* via lexicalization.

The verb displays an interesting characteristic of other older verbs formed with the “Going” Adverbial Suffix—the CMP and INF forms of the verb switch from the “Going” Adverbial Suffix to the “Going Through” Adverbial Suffix. So, instead of the CMP and INF “Going” Morphemes /v³³s/ and /v¹¹sd/, this verb uses the CMP and INF “Going Through” Morphemes /i²³nv³²s/ and /i²³nv³²d/ in those Stem Forms. For this reason, the verb could be considered “Irregular”—because a “Regular” Cherokee verb formed with a specific Adverbial Suffix would be expected to use the same Adverbial Suffix in all Stem Forms, and this verb doesn’t.

Compound Root Formula:

/a ² /	+	/di ² /	+	/a ² di ² /	+	/e ³³ g/a ² /	=	/a ² da ² de ³³ ga ² /	=	<i>Approximate Literal Translation(s)</i>
<i>Incorp. 3rd</i>		<i>Unreal “From,”</i>		<i>“Affixed to”</i>		<i>Going</i>				“He’s Going Forth From a Single Affixed Point”
<i>Pers. Pron.</i>		<i>“Towards”</i>				<i>Adv. Suffix. (PRC)</i>				“He’s Going Forth on One [Foot/Leg]”
										“Going on One [Leg]”

SENTENCES:

Ayo’uhli’a asgaya a²¹da²de³³gv⁴jigowhtiha.

/ lame / man / limping / I see him /
I see a lame man limping. (CED).

Eladi wudina sgwahlesd u²¹da²di²³nv³²sv²³?i².

/ down / when he threw it there / ball / it bounced /
When s/he threw the ball down, it bounced. (JW)

RELATED WORDS: “S/he’s Bouncing (It),” a²¹da²di²³nv³²dj²ha², No. 002; “S/he’s Jumping,” da²¹hli⁰ta²de³³ga², No. 321.

[†] JW believes this is the strongest explanation for the morphology of this verb—instead of the Outsourced Reflexive /a²da²²d/, because the second syllable of the root is short. If this verb root really began with /a²da²²d/, you’d expect the second syllable to be long. Another piece of evidence for this is the Aspiration that appears in the closely related word “da²¹hli⁰ta²de³³ga².” Through a phonological process that I don’t entirely understand as of the time of this writing, the Insourced Reflexive /a²li²/ reacts with “Affixed” /a²di²/, causing /a²li²/ to become /a²hli²/, and /a²di²/ to become /a²ti²/.