

S/he’s Finding (It) – Long

Reviewed by JW Webster

a²¹yv²²hwa²hti²³ha²

/a²¹/, v.tp-o(long), Lexical Root, JW p.98, CED p.65-66

PRC	-yv ²² hwa ² hti ²³ /a ²	Present	
		ji ² yv ²² hwa ² hti ²³ ha ²	<i>I’m in the process of finding it (long).[†]</i>
		hi ² yv ²² hwa ² hti ²³ ha ²	<i>You’re in the process of finding it (long).</i>
		a ²¹ yv ²² hwa ² hti ²³ ha ²	<i>S/he’s in the process of finding it (long).</i>
NCMP	-yv ²² hwa ² hti ²² sg-	Past	
		ji ² yv ²² hwa ² hti ²³ sgv ²³ ?i ²	<i>I was in the process of finding it (long).</i>
		hi ² yv ²² hwa ² hti ²³ sgv ²³ ?i ²	<i>You were in the process of finding it (long).</i>
		a ²¹ yv ²² hwa ² hti ²³ sgv ²³ ?i ²	<i>I was in the process of finding it (long).</i>
		Habitual	
		ji ² yv ²² hwa ² hti ²² sgo ³³ ?i ²	<i>I habitually find it (long).</i>
		hi ² yv ²² hwa ² hti ²² sgo ³³ ?i ²	<i>You habitually find it (long).</i>
		a ²¹ yv ²² hwa ² hti ²² sgo ³³ ?i ²	<i>S/he habitually finds it (long).</i>
CMP	-yv ²² hwa ² htv ²² h-	Past	
		a ²¹ gi ² yv ²² hwa ² htv ²² hv ²³ ?i ²	<i>I found it (long).</i>
		ja ² yv ²² hwa ² htv ²² hv ²³ ?i ²	<i>You found it (long).</i>
		u ²¹ yv ²² hwa ² htv ²² hv ²³ ?i ²	<i>S/he found it (long).</i>
		Future	
		da ² ji ² yv ²² hwa ² htv ²³ hi ²	<i>I will find it (long).</i>
		ti ² yv ²² hwa ² htv ²³ hi ²	<i>You will find it (long).</i>
		dv ²² yv ²² hwa ² htv ²³ hi ²	<i>S/he will find it (long).</i>
IMM	-yv ²² hwa ² ht/a ²	Command	
		hi ² yv ²² hwa ² hta ²	<i>Find it (long)!</i>
		Immediate Past	
		ji ² ji ² yv ²² hwa ² hta ⁰	<i>I just found it (long)!</i>
		ji ² hi ² yv ²² hwa ² hta ⁰	<i>You just found it (long)!</i>
		ja ²¹ yv ²² hwa ² hta ⁰	<i>S/he just found it (long)!</i>
INF	-yv ²² hwa ² htv ² hdi ²	Basic Infinitive	
		a ²² gi ² yv ²² hwa ² htv ² hdi ²	<i>For me to find it (long).</i>
		ja ² yv ²² hwa ² htv ² hdi ²	<i>For you to find it (long).</i>
		u ²² yv ²² hwa ² htv ² hdi ²	<i>For him/her to find it (long).</i>

[†] All these PRC and many NCMP examples—“in the process of finding (it)”—are basically synonymous with “searching for” or “looking for” something, and are often used by speakers that way.

Notes: As with all verbs for “finding,” and as mentioned in the footnote above, PRC and many NCMP forms—“in the process of finding”—can be used and understood as basically synonymous with “searching” or “looking for” something. This verb has an interesting “irregularity” as far as its class-marking morpheme goes. Instead of a more standard Long-class morpheme, this verb uses the word [yv²²(wi²)], “person.” This is the result of a lexical process that originally referred to the act of seeking out/finding the “long person,” a river—i.e., the ceremony of Going to Water. Because of this interesting process, I’d categorize this one as a “Lexical Root.” JW says he distinguishes the IMM Command from the IMM Past by adding the /ji²/ prefix and dropping the final syllable for the IMM Past.

Root Formula:

						<i>Approx. Literal Meaning</i>		
/yv ²² wi ² /	+	/hwa ² ht/	+	/i ²² h/	=	/yv ²² hwa ² hti ²² h/	=	
“Person”		True Root		Processive		Practical Root		“In the process of finding (it, long)”
		Find		“In the Process of”		PRC Stem		“In the process of finding a [long] person”
				PRC Stem				“Seeking out a river”

Alternative Pronunciations: Like other verbs built from the “Finding” Root /hwa²ht/, the /a/ syllable is often dropped—/hwa⁰ht/. This is especially true for longer constructions.

SENTENCES:

Na achuja ije gosdvnisdi u²¹yv²²hwa²htv²²hv²³?i². / the / he-boy / it-new / bat / he found it / <i>The boy found a new bat.</i> (CED)	Aditohdi ad digohlvtnv⁴⁴ akinigvgv ji²ga²da¹¹sdayvhvsgv⁴ svhi jigesv, asehn aginulvhnv a²²gi²yv²²hwa⁰htv²hdi²³?i² / spoon / wood / made out of / I needed it / when I was cooking a meal / yesterday / it was / but / for me to find it / I <u>failed</u> [†] / <i>I needed a wood spoon when I was cooking yesterday, but I <u>couldn't</u> find one.</i>
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1: Hadlv jeji achuja? Anejodi adalenisgesdi kohiyv. 2: Dogwalel'i jiwena, dilasgahldi jujeli da²¹yv²²hwa⁰hti²³ha².
1: / where / your-egg / boy / stickball / it will be starting / here soon / - 2: / at-car / he just went there / ball-sticks / they are his / he is in the process of finding them /
1: *Where's your son? Stickball game's starting soon.* 2: *He just went to the car; he's finding his ball-sticks.*

Sidina, digohwelohd ji²yv²²hwa²hti²³ha². / yet-until / writing instrument / I am in the process of finding it / <i>Hold on, I'm finding a pen.</i> (Like you're on the phone, taking notes)	Ada ase di²²gi²lu¹¹ya⁰sdi² yigesa, tladv galuysdi yi²ji²yv²²hwa²hti²³ho³nigvwsd. / wood / must / for me to chop it / whenever it is / definitely not / axe / I can't find it / it seems / <i>It seems like whenever I need to chop wood, I can't find an axe.</i>
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[†] In many circumstances where English speech would express inability—“can’t” or “couldn’t”—Cherokee speakers will instead use the verb denoting “failure to do something.” This is easier to understand if you remember that, technically, it’s more literally true. When you look for your phone and don’t find it, it’s not really because you “can’t” find it—not that you literally lack the ability to find it. You’re perfectly equipped with the ability to find the lost phone, you just failed to do so when you tried. In short: be wary of expressing failure as inability. It’s not the typical Cherokee speech pattern to do so, even though it’s perfectly natural in English.

lyuwu gesv ada digigvhaluysdi agwaduli, tla lvhiyu galuysdi [gv²¹gi²yv²²hwa⁰htv²hdi² (or) yi²ji²yv²²hwa⁰hti²³ho³] nigvwsd.
/ whenever / it is / wood / for me to chop them / i want it / not / ever / axe / I'm not able to find it (long) / [or] / then I can't find it (habitually) / it seems.
Whenever I want to chop wood, it seems like I can never find[†] an axe.

1: Hadlv ga²nv²²gwa²lo⁴⁴sd? Nikv wagigtenolidolv'i. 2: Tlas yi²ga²hi²yv²²hwa²hta²? Gadasdayvhvsga nogw. Nigadawu⁰dv³³ iyagwadvnhdidi jaduliho nigvwsd.
1: / where / my hammer[†] / all over / there I looked / - 2: / isn't it not / you can't find it / I'm cooking a meal / now-it-is / everything / for me to do various things / you want it / it seems /
1: *Where's my hammer? I've looked everywhere. 2: Can't you find it [yourself]? I'm cooking right now. Seems like you always want me to do everything.*

RELATED WORDS: “Finding Oneself Somewhere,” a²¹da²²hwa²htv²²hi²³do³²ha², No. 006; “S/he’s Visiting (Him),” a²¹ji²²hwa²htv²²hi²³do³²ha², No. 114; “S/he’s Finding (It, Him) – Solid, Living,” a²¹hwa²hti²³ha², No. 113; “S/he’s Finding (It) – Flexible,” ga²na³²hwa⁰hti³ha², No. 463; “S/he’s Finding (It) – Liquid,” ga²ne²²hwa²hti³ha², No. 474; “S/he’s Seeing (It, Him),” a²¹go²²hwa⁰hti³ha², No. 073.

[‡] JW says [a²¹ki²yo²³ha²], “S/he’s Looking for (It),” would be a more commonly-used verb in this instance. Although [a²¹yv²²hwa²hti²³ha²], “in the process of looking for it” can be basically synonymous with “looking for” something, and may be used that way sometimes, there are still pragmatic/use-case differences between the two—i.e., instances in which a native speaker would be more likely to use one or the other. As of the time of this writing, I do not fully understand the difference in these use-cases, so I just note it here for students’ benefit.

[†] When I wrote this short dialogue, I pictured a man wandering around his house and bothering his wife for help finding his hammer while she was cooking. Upon review with JW, he told me directly denoting possession (either with a Set B pronoun or an auxiliary word like “agwajeli”) is not necessary under these circumstances. Possession is either implied, or simply not relevant to the circumstances. The man needs a hammer and he’s in his own house. We don’t need to be specific about *whose* hammer he needs—the most important thing is that he needs *a hammer*, probably *any* hammer will do. Since he’s in his own house, whatever hammer he finds will probably be *his hammer* in some sense anyways. So speakers will just say “a hammer” here, because possession is not important. This illustrates a helpful point: under the right circumstances, a 3rd Person Singular Pronoun is basically equivalent to an Article (“a” or “the”) in English. In retrospect, I guess I could’ve just changed the English translation to say “*a* hammer,” or even “*the* hammer”—instead of translating it as “my hammer.” But, I feel that I’d personally be more likely to say “my hammer” in this instance, so I wanted to equate the two despite this difference. And besides, changing it after the fact would’ve deprived me an opportunity to explain this to you.