

## Unit 2

### The Past and the Future

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#### 2.1 The Direct Past Form

In Unit 1, we learned two of the most important forms for any verb – the Basic form and the Simple Present form. Another important verb form is the **DIRECT PAST FORM**. The Direct Past describes an action that happened in the past, and in particular one which the speaker knows about from first-hand (or direct) knowledge.

For most verbs, the direct past form is very easy to make, so long as you know the Simple Present form. All we need to do is to take the final **-ng** of the Simple Present form and replace it with **-n**, and then we have the Direct Past form.

Here is a simple example of that pattern, with the verb **ts'áanu**.

<b>BASIC FORM:</b>	<b>ts'áanu</b>	to build a fire
<b>SIMPLE PRESENT:</b>	<b>ts'áanuugang</b>	is building a fire
<b>DIRECT PAST:</b>	<b>ts'áanuugan</b>	built a fire, was building a fire

Notice that the Direct Past tense can be translated in a couple of different ways in English – either as a simple past tense (built a fire) or as a past progressive (was building a fire). Either translation is correct in most situations.

Here are a few more examples of the relationship between the Simple Present form and the Direct Past form, using some of the verbs we are already familiar with from Unit 1.

<b>[Sa] gatáa</b>	for S to eat	→ <b>gatáagang</b>	→ <b>gatáagan</b>	ate
<b>[Sa] k'ajúu</b>	for S to sing	→ <b>k'ajúugang</b>	→ <b>k'ajúugan</b>	sang
<b>[Sa] kúugaa</b>	for S to cook	→ <b>kúugaagang</b>	→ <b>kúugaagan</b>	cooked
<b>[Sa] k'usáang</b>	for S to cough	→ <b>k'usáanggang</b>	→ <b>k'usáanggan</b>	coughed

We can use these Direct Past forms to make simple sentences such as the following.

<b>Hank ts'áanuugan.</b>	Hank built a fire.
<b>Travis gatáagan.</b>	Travis was eating.
<b>Tláan HI kúugaagan.</b>	I stopped cooking.
<b>Hawáan t'aláng k'ajúugan.</b>	We were still singing.
<b>Háwsan Sean k'usáanggan.</b>	Sean coughed again.

## 2.2 Direct Past with Complex Change Verbs

The same pattern applies even with verbs that show complex changes in the Simple Present form. Just change the final **-ng** to **-n** in order to get the Direct Past form. For example:

<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] xyáahl</b>	for S to dance	<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] ganiihl</b>	for S to drink some water
<b>xyáalgang</b>	is dancing	<b>ganílgang</b>	is drinking some water
<b>xyáalgan</b>	danced	<b>ganílgan</b>	drank some water
<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] ta k'id</b>	for S to carve	<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] ta t'áns gad</b>	for S to do laundry
<b>ta k'íidang</b>	is carving	<b>ta t'áns giidang</b>	is doing laundry
<b>ta k'íidan</b>	carved	<b>ta t'áns giidan</b>	did laundry

Notice that whatever complex changes take place in the Simple Present form, those same changes happen with the Direct Past form. The only difference is in the final sound: **-ng** for the Simple Present, and **-n** for the Direct Past.

Here are some sentence examples.

<b>Candace xyáalgan.</b>	Candace danced.
<b>Kevin ta k'íidan.</b>	Kevin was carving.
<b>Hal ganílgan.</b>	She drank some water.
<b>Tláan Will ta t'áns giidan.</b>	Will stopped doing laundry.

## 2.3 Direct Past with Weak-A Verbs

The only verbs which are an exception to this pattern are the Short-A verbs. For these verbs, the Direct Past form is made by adding **-gan** onto the end of the Basic form. Here are two examples.

<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] hlgáנגgula</b>	for S to work	<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] táwk'a</b>	for S to garden
<b>hlgáנגgulaang</b>	is working	<b>táwk'aang</b>	is gardening
<b>hlgáנגgulägan</b>	worked	<b>táwk'ägan</b>	gardened

Notice what happens to the short **-a-** right before the Direct Past ending **-gan**: it changes from **-a-** to **-ä-**. This is to remind us that there are two ways to pronounce words such as these. Many speakers from Old Massett will keep the **-a-** in words like these, while many speakers from Alaska will drop the **-a-**. This is one of the few points of real difference between the Haida spoken in these two areas.

<b>OLD MASSETT:</b>	<b>hlgáנגgulagan</b>	worked
<b>ALASKA:</b>	<b>hlgáנגgulgan</b>	worked

Since this difference affects a large number of words in Haida, we use the special symbol **-ä-** to show that both pronunciations are possible, and that both are correct.

The same pattern applies with those Short-A verbs that have no accent in their basic form. For these verbs, the accent will fall on the Direct Past ending **-gán**.

<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] aada</b>	for S to seine	<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] skamda</b>	for S to set traps
<b>aadáang</b>	is seining	<b>skamdáang</b>	is setting traps
<b>aadägán</b>	seined	<b>skamdägán</b>	set traps

Here are some sentence examples with these Short-A verbs.

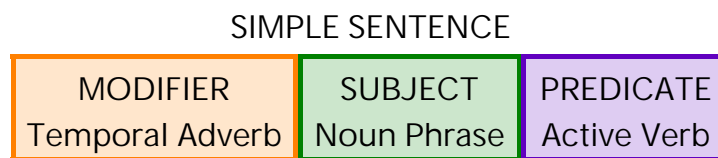
<b>Daláng hlgáנגguláган.</b>	You folks worked.
<b>Roy táwk'áган.</b>	Roy planted a garden.
<b>Hawáan Joe aadáган.</b>	Joe was still seining.
<b>T'aláng skamdáган.</b>	We set some traps.

## 2.4 Temporal Adverbs

If we want to be more specific about when an action happened, we can add a **TEMPORAL ADVERB** to the sentence. Temporal adverbs are words or phrases they tell us when an action occurred. Here are a few Temporal Adverbs that refer to a point in the past.

<b>adaahl</b>	yesterday	<b>gáalgwaa</b>	last night
<b>adaahl daaléesd</b>	day before yesterday	<b>hat'án</b>	just, recently
<b>áasangwee</b>	a little while ago	<b>tladlúuwan</b>	quite a while ago

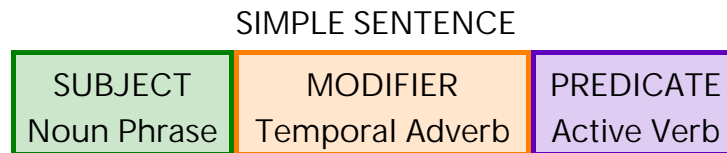
If the subject of the sentence is a noun phrase, then the temporal adverb will usually occur before the subject.



For example:

MODIFIER	SUBJECT	PREDICATE	
Adaahl	Don	k'iigaanggan.	Don told stories yesterday.
Hat'án	Jenny	sgíwdaanggan.	Jenny just gathered some seaweed.
Gáalgwaa	Fred	sgi skáajuugan.	Last night Fred played baseball.
Áasangwee	Cheryl	k'áahluugan.	Cheryl got up a little while ago.

It is also possible, though, for the modifier to occur in between the Subject and the Predicate.



Here are some sentences showing this pattern.

SUBJECT	MODIFIER	PREDICATE	
Bill	tladluuwan	hlǵáנגgulāgan.	Bill worked quite a while ago.
Ann	hat'án	k'ajúugan.	Ann just sang.
Nang jáadaas	adaahl	skáadaanggan.	The woman picked berries yesterday.
Ted	adaahl daaléesd	xyáalgan.	Ted danced the day before yesterday.

Both orders are possible, and the meaning of the sentence remains the same regardless of which order you choose to use.

However, different rules apply if the Subject of the sentence is a pronoun instead of a noun phrase. In that case, the Temporal Adverb must come first. It cannot occur in between the pronoun Subject and the Predicate.

SIMPLE SENTENCE

MODIFIER Temporal Adverb	SUBJECT Pronoun	PREDICATE Active Verb
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Here are some examples of this pattern:

MODIFIER	SUBJECT	PREDICATE	
<b>Gáalgwaa</b>	<b>daláng</b>	<b>k'ájúgan.</b>	You folks sang last night.
<b>Áasangwee</b>	<b>t'aláng</b>	<b>ta tl'iigan.</b>	We sewed a little while ago.
<b>Tladluúwan</b>	<b>hal</b>	<b>ta k'udlán-gan.</b>	She painted quite a while ago.
<b>Hat'án</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>hlkúnst'iijan.</b>	I just blew my nose.

### 2.5 Simple Future Form

Now that we have seen how to talk about the present and the past, we need to look at how to talk about the future. We'll start by learning how to make the Simple Future form of the verb. The basic ending for expressing the Simple Future is **-äsaang**. We can attach this ending onto the Basic form of most verbs.

<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] xyáahl</b>	<b>→ xyáahläsaang</b>	will dance
<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] ta xáy</b>	<b>→ ta xáyäsaang</b>	will weave
<b>[S<sub>A</sub> PL] skináng</b>	<b>→ skinángäsaang</b>	will wake up (PL)
<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] náang</b>	<b>→ náangäsaang</b>	will play
<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] gu chándaal</b>	<b>→ gu chándaaläsaang</b>	will sled

As usual, the **-ä-** indicates that some speakers pronounce this ending as **-asaang**, and some speakers pronounce it as **-saang**. Both forms are correct.

Here are some examples.

<b>T'aláng xyáahläsaang.</b>	We will dance.
<b>April ta xáyäsaang.</b>	April will weave.
<b>Andy isgyáan Dan skinángäsaang.</b>	Andy and Dan will wake up.
<b>Hi náangäsaang.</b>	I will play.
<b>Háwsan Eddie gu chándaaläsaang.</b>	Eddie will sled again.

## 2.6 Simple Future Form of Weak-A Verbs

If we have a Short-A verb, things are a little different. In that case, the short **-a-** at the end of the Basic form of the verb is lengthened to a long **-aa-**, and then the Simple Future ending is added. However, this has the effect of bringing three **-a-** letters together, which can be a little jarring visually. To help break up this sequence, we will use a period in between the long **-aa-** and the weak **-ä-**. This does not change the pronunciation at all, it just helps the reader to break up the word more easily.

<b>[S<sub>A</sub> sg] sgáyhla</b>	<b>sgáyhlaa.äsaang</b>	will cry (sg)
<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] aada</b>	<b>aadäa.äsaang</b>	will seine
<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] gándäga</b>	<b>gándägaa.äsaang</b>	will mumble
<b>[S<sub>A</sub>] hlǵánggula</b>	<b>hlǵánggulaa.äsaang</b>	will work
<b>[S<sub>A</sub> sg] skína</b>	<b>skínaa.äsaang</b>	will wake up (sg)

Here are some examples.

SUBJECT	PREDICATE	
<b>Dáng</b>	<b>sgáyhlaa.äsaang.</b>	You will cry.
<b>Hank</b>	<b>aadäa.äsaang.</b>	Hank will seine.
<b>Wendy</b>	<b>sgadägäa.äsaang.</b>	Wendy will whisper.
<b>Nang íhlangaas</b>	<b>hlǵánggulaa.äsaang.</b>	The man will work.
<b>Hal</b>	<b>skínaa.äsaang.</b>	She will wake up.

## 2.7 More Temporal Adverbs

The Temporal Adverbs that we saw earlier on all described some time in the past. There are other Temporal Adverbs, however, which talk about time in the future, and that we can use with the Simple Future form of the verb. Here are a few common ones.

<b>adaahl</b>	tomorrow	<b>ám̄ts'uwaan</b>	a little later
<b>adaahl daaliigw</b>	day after tomorrow	<b>áasangaa</b>	sometime today
<b>tliisdluwaan</b>	someday	<b>hawíidaan</b>	soon

For example:

MODIFIER	SUBJECT	PREDICATE	
<b>Adaahl</b>	<b>Penny</b>	<b>giidángäsaang.</b>	Penny will gather bark tomorrow.
<b>Hawíidaan</b>	<b>hal</b>	<b>dladáaläsaang.</b>	He will stroll soon.
<b>Ám̄ts'uwaan</b>	<b>HI</b>	<b>ta k'áalangäsaang.</b>	I'll write later.
<b>Tliisdluwaan</b>	<b>Jeff</b>	<b>s̄kamdáa.äsaang.</b>	Someday Jeff will set traps.

Other Temporal Adverbs can be used with verbs in a variety of different tenses. Here are some of the most common words of this type:

<b>jiingaa</b>	for a long time	<b>sántajaa saliid</b>	in the afternoon
<b>áayaad</b>	today	<b>wáayaad</b>	now, nowadays
<b>sáng áayaan</b>	in the morning	<b>sáng xidgw</b>	in the evening
<b>sáng s̄gask'w</b>	all day long	<b>sántajaas dluu</b>	at noon

Here are some examples.

MODIFIER	SUBJECT	PREDICATE	
Áayaad	Alex	skáadaanggang.	Alex is picking berries today.
Sáng xidgw	hal	gáadanggan.	She bathed in the evening.
Sáng sgask'w	t'aláng	hlgánggulaa.äsaang.	We will work all day long.
Jiingaa	Doris	k'ajúugan.	Doris sang for a long time.

## 2.8 Days of the Week

Another important set of Temporal Adverbs are the days of the week. The seven-day week was not a traditional concept, but the idea has been borrowed into Haida culture, and new terms were developed to name each of the days. There are in fact several different sets of names used for the days of the week, varying somewhat from community to community. Below is one common set of names for us to learn:

<b>Sáng Sgwáansang</b>	Monday ('day one')
<b>Sáng Sdáng</b>	Tuesday ('day two')
<b>Sáng Hlgúnahl</b>	Wednesday ('day three')
<b>Sáng Stánsang</b>	Thursday ('day four')
<b>Sáng Tléehl</b>	Friday ('day five')
<b>Sándiigaa Xajúu</b>	Saturday ('little Sunday')
<b>Sándii</b>	Sunday

In English, we often have to put the little word 'on' in front of the days of the week to say when something happened – 'on Tuesday', 'on Saturday', etc. In Haida, we can simply give the name of the day, without having to add anything extra.

Here are some sentence examples.

MODIFIER	SUBJECT	PREDICATE	
Sáng Sdáng	dáng	ǰáwgan.	You fished on Tuesday.
Sáng Stánsang	HI	giidáangäsaang.	I'll gather bark on Thursday.
Sándiigaa Xajúu	Ken	ta k'íidan.	Ken carved on Saturday.
Sáng Sgwáansang	Tina	táwk'aa.äsaang.	Tina will garden on Monday.

## 2.9 Content Questions in the Simple Present

Up to this point, all of the Haida sentences we have learned to say have been statements. Our next step is to begin learning to ask questions. The first type of question we will learn to ask is a *who?* question.

Here is an example of a simple statement, and a corresponding *who?* question in Haida.

<b>Bill k'ajúugang.</b>	Bill is singing.
<b>Gíisd uu k'ajúugang?</b>	Who is singing?

There are a few things we can notice about this pair of sentences. First, the name Bill is replaced by the question word **gíisd**, which is the Haida word for 'who?'. Second, this question word is followed by another little word, **uu**. And then third, we have the verb, which has the same form in the question as it does in the statement.

Let's check out a few more *who?* questions to see if the pattern holds.

<b>Gíisd uu náanggang?</b>	Who is playing?
<b>Gíisd uu gatáagang?</b>	Who is eating?
<b>Gíisd uu ganilgang?</b>	Who is drinking water?

Here we see those same three elements again: 1) the question word **gíisd**, 2) the little

word **uu**, and 3) the Simple Present form of the verb.

That little word **uu** is what we call the **SIMPLE FOCUS MARKER**. It is one of the most common words in the entire language, but it has no English translation. Its job is to draw the listener's attention to whatever comes before it in the sentence. You can think of it as shining a spotlight on the word or phrase that comes in front of it, pointing out that this is the most important, newsworthy or relevant part of the sentence.

The word or phrase that comes before the Simple Focus Marker **uu** is said to be *in focus position*. Thus, in all of our **who?** questions, we can say that the question word **giisd** is in focus position, meaning that that's the word we should be paying the most attention to in the sentence. We will see that this is a regular pattern in Haida: question words always get put in focus position in the sentence.

## 2.10 Answering a Who? Question

There are a couple of different ways to answer a **Giisd uu?** question in Haida. Let's look at a typical example.

<b>Giisd uu k'ajúugang?</b>	Who is singing?
<b>Bill uu k'ajúugang.</b>	BILL is singing.

When we answer a **Giisd uu?** question, we put the name of the person in focus position, followed by the Simple Focus Marker **uu**, and then the verb. Basically, all we do is replace the question word **giisd** with the answer – in this case, Bill. Everything else about the sentence stays the same.

Now, compare these two sentences:

<b>Bill k'ajúugang.</b>	Bill is singing.
<b>Bill uu k'ajúugang.</b>	BILL is singing.

The first sentence is a neutral statement of the fact that Bill is singing. We translate that simply as 'Bill is singing.'

The second sentence puts focus on the fact that it is Bill who is singing. It draws your attention to the person doing the action, and away from the action itself. To show that, we translate that sentence as 'BILL is singing.'

In English, this type of focus or emphasis is often accomplished simply by putting emphasis on the focused word – saying it louder than the other words around it in the sentence (hence, BILL instead of just Bill). In Haida, emphasis isn't used in that way. Instead, there is the Simple Focus Marker **uu**.

Here are a few more examples of sentences with the Subject in focus position.

SUBJECT	SFM	PREDICATE	
Harvey	uu	gatáagang.	HARVEY is eating.
Don isgyáan Tina	uu	hlgáanggulaang.	DON AND TINA are working.
Kathy	uu	ta tl'iigan.	KATHY sewed.
Nang jáadaas	uu	xyáahläsaang.	THE WOMAN will dance.

## 2.11 Answering a Who? Question with a Pronoun

So far, all the answers to our who? questions have been noun phrases. But what if we wanted to answer with a pronoun. For example:

Who is singing?  
 She is singing.

To do this, we are going to need a new set of pronouns. The Active Subject pronouns that we learned in Unit 1 work fine in a simple sentence, but when we try to put them into focus position, some of them change their form.

Here are the two sets of Active Subject pronouns: the regular set and the focused set.

	REGULAR	FOCUSED
I	<b>HI</b>	<b>hláa</b>
you	<b>dáng</b>	<b>dáa</b>
he/she/they	<b>hal</b>	<b>'láa</b>
we	<b>t'aláng</b>	<b>t'aláng</b>
you folks	<b>daláng</b>	<b>daláng</b>

Let's see how these work. Pay attention to the form of the Active Subject pronoun in each of the following answers.

<b>Gíisd uu náanggang?</b> <b>Hláa uu náanggang.</b>	Who is playing? I am playing.
<b>Gíisd uu gatáagang?</b> <b>Dáa uu gatáagang.</b>	Who is eating? YOU are eating.
<b>Gíisd uu ganílgang?</b> <b>'Láa uu ganílgang.</b>	Who is drinking water? HE is drinking water.

Notice that each of these singular pronouns has a unique and different form when it occurs in focus position. Instead of **HI**, we get **hláa**. Instead of **dáng**, we get **dáa**. And instead of **hal**, we get **'láa**. Notice also that all of the new pronouns end in a long, high-tone **-áa-**.

For the plural pronouns, things are a bit easier.

<b>Gíisd uu skáadaanggang?</b> <b>T'aláng uu skáadaanggang.</b>	Who is picking berries? WE are picking berries.
<b>Gíisd uu táwk'aang?</b> <b>Daláng uu táwk'aang.</b>	Who is gardening? YOU FOLKS are gardening.

Here, the two plural pronouns both keep the same form that we are already familiar with. **T'aláng** stays **t'aláng** and **daláng** stays **daláng**, even when we put them in focus position.

## 2.12 Who? Questions in the Simple Future

Once we are comfortable with who? questions in the Simple Present, it is easy to learn to ask and answer them in the Simple Future. All we have to do is change the ending on the verb. Everything else stays the same.

For example:

<b>Gíisd uu xyáahläsaang?</b> <b>Catrina uu xyáahläsaang.</b>	Who will dance? CATRINA will dance.
<b>Gíisd uu hlgánggulaa.äsaang?</b> <b>Dáa uu hlgánggulaa.äsaang.</b>	Who will work? YOU will work.
<b>Gíisd uu ta k'idäsáang?</b> <b>Mark isgyáan Pete uu ta k'idäsáang.</b>	Who will carve? MARK AND PETE will carve.