This week: talking about the past

**August 23**

Vina upiip:

> íp nimáhat pa’ávansa. • I saw the man.

- **íp** = in the (usually the recent) past
- **ni-** = I
- **máh** = see
- **-at** = in the past
- **pa-** = the
- **'ávansa** = man

**Comments**

This sentence uses both íp, a separate word before the verb, and -at, a suffix after the verb.
This is a common pattern.

**August 24**

Charlie upiip:

> nanikîit neekshúpihat. • My grandmother taught me.

- **nani-** = my
- **kiit** = grandmother
- **(nee = na- + i-)**
- **na-** = she (did something) to me
- **ikshúpih** = teach
- **-at** = past

Differently from yesterday's sentence, this one uses -at (for past time) without íp. This is common too (and can refer to any past time).
**August 25**

VinaUPIP:

*tá nipikyâar pananichúupha.* • I finished talking.

*tá* = recently completed action or in a state

*ni-* = I

*pikyâar* = finish (something)

*pa-* = the

*nani-* = my

*chúupha* = talking

Often *tá* is used for current states, like being hungry or tired, but it is also very often used in sentences like this, where an action has just been completed. By using *tá*, Vina was conveying that at the time she would have just finished talking. (If it had been farther in the past, she might have used *-at*.)

**August 26**

Chester PepperUPIP:

*xás pihnêefich ukúphaanik.* • Coyote did this.

*xás* = then

*pihnêefich* = coyote

*u-* = he

*kúph(a)* = do

*-aanik* = in the past (usually, a long time ago)

**Comments**

The ending *-aanik* (or *-hanik* or *-eenik*) is sometimes used when talking about things that happened long ago, as in stories, or about what people did quite a while ago. (In his grammar of Karuk, Bill Bright called it the "ancient" tense.)
August 27
Nettie Ruben upiip:

kári xás kári, ta'ítam, u'árihishriheen. • And then she sang.

kári = then
xás = then
ta'ítam = so
u- = she or he
'árihishri(h) = sing
-heen = previously, in the past

Comments
The ending -heen is another past-time ending (in addition to -at and yesterday's -hanik)!
Karuk past-time endings are awesome.

August 28
Vina upiip:

fâat i'ávaheen? • What did you eat?

fâat = what?
i- = you
'áv = eat
-aheen = previously, in the past

August 29
Lucille upiip:

ipít ukyútunihat. • It snowed yesterday.

ipít = yesterday
u- = it
(i)kyútunih = snow
-at = in the past

Comments
Also, ikyútunih "to snow" is an awesome word because literally it means "to be piled down": ikyut- "to be in a pile" + -unih "down". That's snowing!
August 30

Vina upiip:

*chaka’îimich vúra chúuphì*. • Speak slowly.

*chaka’îimich* = slowly  
*vúra* = intensive  
*chúuphì(a)* = speak  
*-i* = command

August 31

Nettie Ruben upiip:

*kârì xás upikrîish, xás upihéer*. • Then she sat back down and took another smoke.

*(kârì)* xás = then  
*u* = he or she  
*p* = again ("iterative")  
*ikrîish* = sit down  
*ihéer* = smoke

This has a nice parallel structure, with similar verbs: *ikrîish* "sit down" and *ihéer* "smoke", both combined with the "iterative" prefix (*p*), so they mean "sat back down" and "smoked again" ("took another smoke").