



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing. They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Ambe biindigeg! Ojibwemodaa! Anishinaabemodaa! Aaniin waa-izhichiged dagwaagig gimisenh? Giiyose na? Wii-kiiyose na? Gaawiin mashi giiyosesiin indaanis. Giwii-manoominike na? Ziibiing iwidi, manoominike inzhishenh. Ingii-kikinoo'amaag. Giwii-wiidookaagoowaa. gaye. Gidaa-gagwejimaawaa. Inashke, ingiw nikag animisewag! Indikid apane, "apegish minoseyeg." Waatebagaa. Wa'aw giizis izhinikaazo "Waatebagaa-giizis."

(Come on in! Let's speak Ojibwe! Let's speak the Anishinaabe language! What will your older sister do when it is fall? Is she hunting? Will she hunt? My daughter does not hunt yet. Do you want to go wild ricing? On the river over there, my maternal uncle rices. He taught me. He wants to help you all too. You all could ask him. Look, those Canada geese are flying away. I always say, "I wish you all have good luck." There are brightly colored leaves. This month is called "Bright-colored leaves month.")

Bezbig—1

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Waabooz—as in father
Miigwech—as in jay
Aaniin—as in seen
Mooz—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Dash—as in about
Ingiw—as in tin
Niizho—as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.
—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

VTa=Verbs, Transitive, Animate.

Use any VTA Root Command in action patterns towards "you"/you all.
Talk to him/her!—Gaganoozh!
Gigaganoonin.—I talk to you.
Gigaganoonininim.—I talk to you all.
Gigaganoonig.—S/he talks to you.
Giganoonigoo- We talk to you
Gigaganoonigoog- They talk to you
Love, treasure him/her!—Zaagi!
Gizaagi'in.—I love you.
Gizaagi'ininim.—I love you all.
Gizaagi'ig.—S/he loves you.
Gizaagi'igowaa.— S/he loves you all.
Gizaagi'igoog.—They love you.
Gizaagi'igowaag.—They love you all.

Niizh—2

Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Awesiins bimaadizi megwaayaak.

B. Ingiw bineshiinyag babaamisewag iwidi ishpiming. Howah!

C. Omaa zaaga'iganiing, ingiw giigoonyag babaamaadagaawag.

D. Manoomin dazhigin imaa ziibiing! Niwii-manoominike.

E. Gikinoo'amaadiiwigamigong, ingiw abinoojiinyag ojibwemowag.

F. Giiyosewag megwaayaak gaye.

G. Aandegwag wiisiniwag mandaamin-gitigaaning.

H. Apane nandawishibewag dagwaagig.

O	B	Z	A	H							
J	H	I	G	W	K						
I	O	I	J	I	E	A					
B	W	S	O	K	I	S	B				
W	A	H	A	N	E	G	I	I			
E	H	P	D	G	A	M	O	I	M		
M	T	I	W	A	A	P	W	O	N	A	
O	H	M	B	Y	N	M	A	I	Y	S	A
W	B	I	N	E	S	H	I	N	Y	A	G
A	A	N	D	E	G	W	A	G	E	P	G
G	N	G	I	Z	I	I	B	I	I	N	G

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:
1. moon, sun, month
3. geese
4. always, continually
5. no, not
7. greetings, in what way?

Across:
3. s/he hunts
6. Look! Behold!
8. also, and, too
9. over there

Online Resources

ojibwe.lib.umn.edu
ojibwe.net
glifwc.org
glifwc-inwe.com

Niiwin—4

VTa to you: Negation
Root: Baapi!—Laugh at him/her!
Gibaapi'in.—I laugh at you.
Gaawiin gibaapi'isinoon.—No, I do not laugh at you.
Gaawiin gibaapi'igosiin.—No, s/he does not laugh at you.
Gaawiin gibaapi'igoosiin.—No, we do not laugh at you.
Gaawiin gibaapi'igosiig.—No, they do not laugh at you.
Try Asham!—Feed him/her!
Try Waabam!—See him/her!
Try Minwenim!—Like him/her!

1. Ningagiibiingwe. Gaawiin _____ waabam _____? (I->You negation)

2. _____ wii-asham _____ iwidi adoopiwinig. (I ->You)

3. Waabang, _____ wii-paabi' _____ bimoseyan. (S/he ->You)

4. Aaniin! Wayiiba _____ wii-gaganoon _____. (We ->You)

5. Gaawiin zaagi' _____ noongom. Maanendam. Gaawiin wii-waabam _____. (S/he ->You negation)

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. A little animal lives in the woods. B. Those birds are flying around high in the sky. Cool! C. Here in the lake, those fish swim about. D. The wild rice grows there in the river! I want to harvest wild rice! E. At school, those children speak Ojibwe. F. They hunt in the woods as well. G. The crows eat in the cornfield. H. They always duck hunt when it is fall.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. giizis 3. nikag 4. apane 5. gaawiin 7. aaniin Across: 2. giiyose 6. inashke 8. gaye 9. iwidi

Niiwin-4 1. I am blind. I do not see you. (gi- -isinoon) 2. I want to feed you over there at the table. (Gi- -in) 3. Tomorrow, s/he will laugh at you when you walk. (Gi- -ig) 4. Greetings! We want to see you soon. (Gi- -igoo) 5. No, she does not love you now and she does not want to see you. (Gi- -igosiin)

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. The grammar patterns may help a beginner voice inanimate and animate nouns and verbs correctly, as well as create questions and negate statements. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. Some spellings and translations from The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 or email lynn@glifwc.org.

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