



Zaasijiwan
• It Ripples •

Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Howah! Agwajing, gii-kichi-giizhaate. Gii-kiizhaateg, ingii-izhaa zaaga'iganing. Anwaatin noongom. Endaso-gigizheb, niwii-pimose. Nibabaamose. Maagizhaa, niwii-waabamaag bineshiinyag, zhishiibag, nikag, binewag, gaagaawiwag, ingiw wiinaangeg, gekekweg, migiziwag. Asiginaakweg, gijigijigaaneshiinyag, baapaaseg bakadewag. Niwii-waabamaag awesiinyag giyosewaad, ganabaj ingiw waagoshag gemaa ma'iinganag. Akawe megwayaak niwaabamaa giyosewinini. Mii dash gitigaaning, ganawaabamag a'aw gitigewinini. Mii'iw."

("Wow! Outside, it was very hot weather. When it was hot, I went to the lake. It is calm weather now. Every morning, I want to walk. I take a stroll. Maybe, I'll see birds, ducks, Canada geese, grouses, ravens, those turkey vultures, hawks, eagles. Blackbirds, chickadees, woodpeckers are hungry. I want to see wild animals as they hunt, maybe those foxes or wolves. First in the woods I see a hunter. And then in the field, I watch that farmer. That's all.")

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)

VTI Verbs:
Transitive—, speaks of the **Inanimate** (non-living-singular & plural) Root verb—a command/ expands in patterns; switch verbs and nouns. (VTI class 1).

Waabandan!—See it!
Niwaabandaan mazina'igan.— I see a book.
Niwaabandaanan iniw mazina'iganan.— I see those books.
Gaapizan!—Parch/Roast it dry!
Nigaapizaan manoomin.—I parch wild rice.
Gigii-kaapizaan ina?—Did you parch it? (VTI class 2 commands ends: -oon -in -en)
Ozhitoon!—Build it! Zaagitooon!—Love it!
Gigii-oozhitoon i'iw jiimaan?
—Did you build that canoe?
Nizaagitooon.—I love it.
Gaye ozaagitooonaawaa.—They love it too.

Niizh—2

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

A. Gichi-ziibi gemaa misi-ziibi. Eya'! Aabijijiwan. Bimijiwan.
B. Gichi-zaaga'iganing, waabanong, gakaamikijiwan imaa.
C. Gii-awan Niigaani-gichigamiing gii-waabandamaan.
D. Gich-aazhoogami-gichigamiing, giishedinong, giishkadinaa.
E. Gaa-bapkiteyaashkaamagak Gichigami michaa.
Maamakaadendaagwad.
F. Michigami ingii-waabandaan.
G. Ingii-waabamaag mazhoominag.
H. Nizaagitooon iniw zaaga'iganan.

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

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN
ODAMINOWIN
(word play)

Down:
1. It is calm weather.
2. In the garden/field

Across:
3. ravens
4. grouses
5. those (animate)
6. first
7. that (animate)
8. Canada geese
9. That is all.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Nibi—Water
Aki (ing)—Earth (on/in the)

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

Niiwin—4

Gikinoo'amaadiwigamigong.
At the/to the/in the school.

Agindan!—Read/Count it! Indagindaan mazina'igan. I read a book/paper. Odagindaan...—S/he reads it...
Ozhibii'an!—Write it! Indoozhibii'aa mazina'igan.— I write a paper. Odoozhibii'aa...—S/he writes it...
Nandagikendan!—Seek to know it!
Nisidotan!—Understand it!
Ninisidotaan Ojibwemowin.—I understand Ojibwe language.
Aabajitoon!—Use it! Odaabajitoonaawaa Ojibwemowin.—They use Ojibwe language.
DAZHIKAN!—Work on it!
Indazhikaan Ojibwe.—I work on Ojibwe language.
Niwii-dazhiikaamin.— We will work on it! Miigwech!

1. _____ agind _____ ina iniw Ojibwewi-ikidowinan?
2. Noongom nishiime dash niin _____ dazhiikaa _____ Ojibwemowin.
3. Gikinoo'amaadiwigamigong _____ nandagikendaa _____.
4. _____ nishidotaa _____ Ojibwemowin bangi. Ninzaagitooon.
5. Nisayenh ogikendaan Ojibwemowin. _____ agind _____ Ojibwemo.

Od— —aan
Ni— —min
Ni— —aan
giwii— —min
Gid— —an

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Great river or spread out river. Yes! It flows continuously. It flows along. B. At Lake Ontario, in the east, there is a waterfall there. C. It was foggy at Lake Erie when I went to see it. D. On Lake Huron, to the north, there are rock cliffs. E. Lake Superior is big. It is amazing. F. Lake Michigan, I saw it. G. I saw grapes. H. I love those lakes. (Lake names from book, **Aaniin Ekidong: Ojibwe Vocabulary Project**.)

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Anwaatin 2. Gitigaaning Across: 3. Gaagaawiwag 4. Binewag 5. Ingiw 6. Nitam 7. A'aw 8. Nikag 9. Mii'iw

Niiwin-4 1. Are you reading those Ojibwe words? (Gid- -an) 2. Today my younger sibling, you and I (we all) will work on the Ojibwe language. (giwii- -min) 3. At school, we (not you) seek to know it. (Ni- -min) 4. I understand Ojibwe a little. I like it. (Ni- -aan) 5. My older brother knows Ojibwe. He reads it. He speaks Ojibwe. (Od- -aan)

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 lynn@glifwc.org.

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