



Zaasijiwan
• It Ripples •

Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Aaniin gakina awiya! Dagwaagin. Gigikenimaawaa ina wiyaasi-dakoniwewinini gemaa wiyaasi-daloniwewikwe? Gidaa-anamikwaawaag. Daga ikidon, “Chi-miigwech!” Owiidookawaawaan iniw Anishinaaben, giigoonyan, awesiinyan, bineshiinyan. Megwayaak, agwamoyang, owiidookaanigonaaing. Miinawaa akawe, gidaa-agindaanaawaan inaakonigewinan. Gigiigooyike na? Gigiioyose na? Nisidotaw gidoodem. Bizindawig ingiw Gichi-aya’aag. Gigwayakobimaadiz, mino-bimaadiziwin. Apegish menoseyeg omaa dagwaaging. Mino-ayaag! Gaye ojibwemodaa!

(Greetings everyone! It is fall. Do you all know a warden (male) or a warden (female)? You should greet them. Please say, “Many thanks!” They help those people, fish, animals, birds. In the woods, when we all are on the water, they help all of us. And first, you all should read the regulations. Do you go fishing? Do you hunt? Understand your clan. Listen to those Elders. You’re living the right kind of life, the good Life. I wish you all good luck here in the fall. You all be well! Also, let’s all speak Ojibwemowin!)

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN
(Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Waa^{oo}booz—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.

VAI’s: Verbs
An action that takes no object.

Abi.—S/he is at home/sits.
Agindaaso.—S/he reads/counts.
Ojibwemo.—S/he speaks Ojibwe.
Bimose.—S/he walks.
Bimishkaa.—S/he paddles along.
Binaakwe’ige.—S/he rakes stuff.
Biinichige.—S/he cleans.
Giigoonyike.—S/he fishes.
Giiyose or Giiwose.—S/he hunts.
Nandawishibe.—S/he hunts ducks.
Andobinewe.—S/he hunts partridge.
Gikino’amaagozi.—S/he learns/goes to school.
Manoominike.—S/he harvests wild rice.
Gaandakii’ige.—S/he poles the boat.

Niizh—2

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

A. Nindab noongom. Nindagindaas. Niwii-pimose gaye.
B. Gidoojibwem ina? Gojitoon noongom! Nanda-gikendan!
C. Gibimishkaan ina? Ziibing imaa nindaanis gii-pimishkaan.
D. Giiwedonong, niwii-kiiyosemin imaa, aangodinong akandoowining.
E. Nigozisag giigoonyikewag. Giiyosewag miinawaa.
F. Waatebagaa. Niwii-pinaakwe’ige wayiiba.
G. Howah! Oshki-manoomin miinawaa gaazhideg manoomin.

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

Ajidamoo(g)
Red Squirrel(s)



Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN
ODAMINOWIN
(word play)

Down:
1. Please
2. Or
3. Greetings/Hello
4. S/he hunts partridge
6. Also, Too
8. Those (animate)
10. Wow! Alright!

Across:
5. In the woods
7. It is fall.
9. S/he sits/is at home.
11. S/he hunts.

Niiwin—4

Aaniin ezhichigeyan?—What you doing?
Aaniin ezhichigewaad?—What are they doing?
Nindagindaas.—I am counting.
Nindagindaan(an).—I am counting it(them) (non-living)
Nindagindawaa(g).—I am counting him/her (them). (Living)
Bezbig, niizh, niswi, niiwin, naanan, ningodwaaswi, niizhwaaswi, nishwaaswi, zhaangaswi, midaaswi.
Counting something: Bezbig, niizho, niso, niyo, naano,...
Niizhtana—20 Nisimidana—30
Niimidana—40 Naanimidana—50
Ningodwasimidana—60
Niizhwaasimidana—70
Nishwaasimidana—80
Zhaangasimidana—90

1. Ningodwaak. Ningodwaak ashi bezbig. = _____. Howah!
2. Niizhwaak ashi niizhtana shi niizh. = _____. Ikidon!
3. Niswaak ashi ningodwaasimidana shi niiwin. = _____.
4. Niiwaak ashi naanimidana ashi zhaangaswi. = _____.
5. Gii-agimag ina ingiw zhiishiibag? Aaniin minik? Niizhtana na? _____. Nisimidana na? _____. Niimidana na? _____

Translations:
Niizh—2 A. I am at home today. I read. I will walk too. B. Do you speak Ojibwe? Try it now! Seek to learn it! C. Do you all paddle along? On the river there, my daughter paddles. D. To the north, we hunt there, sometimes in a blind. E. My sons go fishing. They hunt also. F. There are bright leaves. I will be raking soon. G. Alright! Fresh new wild rice and cooked wild rice.
Niswi—3 Down: 2. Daga 2. Gemaa 3. Aaniin 4. Andobinewe 6. Gaye 8. Ingiw 10. Howah Across: 5. Megwayaak 7. Dagwaagin 9. Abi 10. Giiyose
Niiwin—4 1. One hundred. One hundred + one = (101). Howah! 2. Two hundred + 20 and two = (222). Speak it! 3. Three hundred + sixty + four. (364). 4. Four Hundred + fifty + nine. (459) 5. Did you count those ducks? How many? (20? 30? 40?)
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 5486; or email lynn@glifwc.org.
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