



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Agwajiing, ninzaagitoon. Gichi-gigizheb. Gitigaaning, indizhaa. Mandaaminaak(oon), niwiikobidoon(an).
Gaye, ingiw mashkodesiminag, nimanibinaag. Gaye, ogosimaanag nimbimiwinaag.
Ingiw “Niso-nimiseyag” gitigaaning, maamawi anokiiwag. Ninzaagi-toon naawakweg.
Niminwendam ishkwaaw-naawakweg. Iwidi, nimbimose meg-waayaak. Nindebaabamaa a’aw wadiswan-migiziwag.
Minwendamoog zaaga’iganing, gaye. Onagoshing imaa, ninamadab niminaawaandawaaganing. Nimiigwechiwendam.
Apegish menoseyeg gaye, waawiyebii’iganing. Mii’iw, gichi-miigwech.
(Outside, I love it. It is early morning. To the garden I go. Ear(s) of corn, I pull it (them). Also, those beans, I pick them.
Also, squash, I carry them along. Those “three sisters” in the garden, together they work. I love it when it is noon.
I am happy when it is afternoon. Over there, I walk in the woods. I check him/her and inspect that eagle’s nest.
They are happy at the lake, also. In the evening, there, I sit on the dock. I am thankful.
I wish you all goodness/wellness also, in the circle. That’s all, big thanks.)

Bezhig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

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.

Minikwen!
—S/he drinks it!
Nibi—H2O water
Niminikwe.—I drink.
Giminikwe.—You drink.
Minikwewag.—They drink.
Niminikwen gegabe-giizhik.
—I drink *IT* all day, every day.
Ganabaj ningodwaaswi dasonaagaans.
—Maybe 6 cups.
Gaye, ingoding ni-minikwen iniw waashkobaagamigin.—Also, sometime I drink those (sweet) soft drinks/pops.
Biindigen!—Come in!
Makade-mashkiki-waaboo(n) ina?
—Black-medicine-liquid(s) Coffee want it?
Doodooshaaboo na?—Milk?
Noobaajigan ina?—Baby bottle?
Minikwedaa! Let’s all drink!

Niizh—2

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

A. Agim! Nindagimaag. Gidagimaag. Miigwech miinawaa.
B. Daga noongom agindaason bezhigo biinish midaaswi.
C. Noongom agim ingiw bezhizhooniyaansag imaa.
D. Zhooniyaa. Zhooniyaansag. Zhooniyaawaabik.
E. Gigii-ishkonaag ina zhooniyaawigamigong imaa?
F. Ishkon! Inga-ishkonaan Nindasigizhooniyaawe.
G. Miigwech, mii’iw.

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

*Dagwaagin.
It is fall.*

Niswi—3

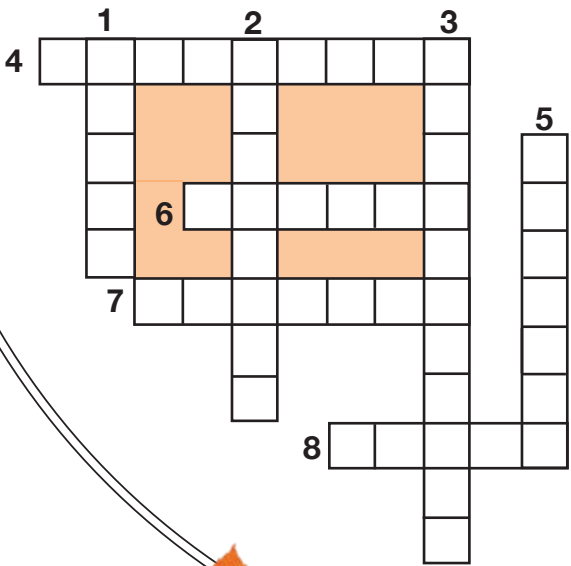
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

DOWN:

- three
- I go
- to/in the garden
- together

Across:

- they work
- eagle
- after
- over there



ininaatigobag (oon)
maple leaf (leaves)

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

Niiwin—4

Aaniin minik? -How much?
Onzaam. Onzaam niibiwa.—Too much. Too many.
Gaye niin.—Also me.
VTI: Nana’inan!—Fix it, put it away/order!
Ninana’inaan.—I put it away in order.
Ginana’inaan.—You put it away in order.
VAI: Miigiwe.—S/he gives things away.
Nimiigiwe. Gimiigiwe.
Miigiwewag.—I give away. **You.... They....**
Anishinaabeg Ojibwemodaa!
—You all-Let’s all speak Ojibwe!
Speech patterns are helpful!
There are four verb types; each has their own rules/patterns to create speech. Learn “Root” verbs and more of each.
1. ____ minikwe. Giin ina?
2. Minikw ____ ina iwidi?
3. Baamaa. _____, ningiizhkaabaagwesii noongom.
4. Jo! Aaniin ezhi-ayaayan? ____ gii-wiidige na? Howah!
5. VAI is a : _____.
Learn VAI “S/he verbs” and patterns to speak of actions/feelings for I..., You..., They..., We..., and more.

Gi—Gaawiin Ni
Verb—Animate—Intransitive. Root—S/he verbs. —wag

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Count him/her! I count them. You count them. Thanks again. B. Please now count one up to ten. C. Now you count them those 10¢/dimes there. D. Money. Coins. Metal coin. E. Did you save your money at the money bldg./bank there? F. Save him/her! I will save it. I save/collect for a donation. G. Thanks, that’s all.
Niswi—3 Down: 1. Niswi 2. Indizhaa 3. Gitigaaning 5. Maamawi Across: 4. Anokiiwag 6. Migizi 7. Ishkwaa 8. Iwidi
Niiwin-4 1. I drink. You? (Ni) 2. They are drinking over there? (wag) 3. Later. No, I am not thirsty now. (Gaawiin) 4. Jo! How are you? You got married? (Gi) Wow! 5. VAI is a Verb- for Animate/living- and Intransitive/doesn’t take a noun. Root VAI’s: S/he...does or feels; Also spoken for I..., You..., They... We... feel/do something.)

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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