



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Aaniin, Boozhoo! Gidojibwem ina? Apegish waa-ojibwemoyeg noongom. Ashwiiwag na? Gii-niibin. Dagwaagin noongom. Aaniin waa-izhichigeyeg? Ginibwaakaa. Gigikendaas. Ojibwemodaa! Aaniin ezhi-ayaayaang? Nimbizindaamin. Nindoojibwemomin. Nindagindaasomin. Nindoojibwewibii'igemin. Nimaamakaajichigemin! Maamakaajichigedaa noongom. Niminwendam miinawaa! Mii'iw.

(How/what way/Greetings, Hello!/Do I know you?! You speak Ojibwe language? I hope you all will-speak Ojibwe today/now. Are they prepared/ready? It was summer. It is fall now. What will you all be doing? You are intelligent/wise. You are smart. Let's all speak Ojibwe language! How are we? We listen. We speak Ojibwe language. We read. We write in Ojibwe. We all do amazing things! Let's all do amazing things now/today. I am happy/glad again! That's all.)

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN

(Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Waa**bo**oz—as in fa**th**er

Miigwe**ch**—as in ja**y**

Aa**ni**in—as in se**e**n

Moo**z**—as in mo**o**n

—Short Vowels: A, I, O

Dash—as in abo**u**t

Ingi**w**—as in ti**n**

Niizho—as in on**l**y

—A glottal stop is a voiceless hesitation as in A'aw.

—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

Dagwaagin.

—It is Autumn/Fall.

Dagwaaging, **ningi**yose

—**When/If** it is fall, **I** hunt.

Niminwendam. Dagwaagin.

—**I** am happy/glad. It is fall.

Dagwaaging, miskobagaa.

—**When** it's fall, it's red leaves on trees.

Wii-dagwaaging ina gimanise?

—**When** it **will** be fall, you'll cut firewood?

Dagwaagin is a VII—a Verb, Inanimate, (non-living), and Intransitive (action does not transfer to other thing or person.)

VII's are the “It is....” verbs. Easy to learn!

Inaande.—It is colored a certain way.

Ningwaanakwad.—It is cloudy. (Weather)

Dakaayaa/Gisinaa.—It's cool/cold weather.

Niizh—2

Circle the 7 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Waaseyaa noongom. Wii-zasakwaa wayiiba.

B. Gidonwaachige na? Eya', wii-biboon. Biboonagad.

C. Mandaaminaakoon ina dash mandaaminaaboo?

D. Gibakade. Niin, ningikenjige.

E. Giminwendaan ina manoomin? Niminwendaan gaapizigan gaye.

F. Ganabaj gabe-dibik wii-takibiisaa.

G. Gaawiin mashi.

H. Ganabaj wii-soogipon.

W A Y M K

Y O M I A W

A G B S E S A

' I N K P D H Y

D B W O J A B I I

Y A E B O G A M O I

I K M A ' W I W E N B

S A O G W A A S E Y A A

K D I A J A W G O O A M

' E W E B G I N S K J '

T A A ' Y I N A A N D E

S H N I I N K N G A W B

Ingo-Inikwe!
One way to steer.
Odaabaan-vehicle

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN

ODAMINOWIN

(word play)

DOWN:

2. You are smart.

4. yes/no question word

6. soon, in a bit

7. and, also, again

Across:

1. I hunt.

3. walleye or pickerel

5. and, too

8. Hi. How/What?

Ingo-inikwe'wi.
One-steer way.
Cars - Him/Her

Online Resources

ojibwe.lib.umn.edu

ojibwe.net

glifwc.org

glifwc-inwe.com

Niiwin—4

Makwa, gii-mizhishawabi.

—Bear, he did sit in the open.

Howah! Gii-gichi-pakade imaa.

Giizisowaabigwani-miinikaanan minopijige.

Nimaada'ookii dash nimaada'oonaa.

Onikaang ziiginige. Onooskwaada'aan.

Eya'. Gaye niin!

—Wow! S/he was real-hungry there. Sunflower seeds, s/he likes the taste. I share with others and I share with h/her. On h/her arm, she spills it. S/he licks it off. Yes. Also me!

Gidaan!

— Eat it all!

Ojibwemodaa!

—Let's all speak Ojibwe!

1. _____ idash ninzaagitoon.

2. _____ noongom aabawaasige.

3. Biijinaago gii-_____ jiigi-zaga'igan imaa.

4. _____, wayiiba. Niwii-kiikajimin.

5. Nimishoomis gii-ogitigaanaan aninaatigoog. Noongoom _____.

6. Apegish menoseyeg.

Giizis

Gisinaa

Dagwaagin

Miskobagaa

Gimanise

Translations:

Niizh—2 **A.** It is sunny now. It will be a heavy frost soon. **B.** You can tell the future? Yes, it will be winter. A year passes. **C.** Ears of corn and corn soup? **D.** You are hungry. Me, I know things. **E.** Do you like (it) wild rice? I like (it) popped wild rice also. **F.** Perhaps all night it will be a cold rain. **G.** Not yet. **H.** Perhaps it will snow.

Niswi—3 **Down:** 2. Gigikendaas 4. Ina 6. Wayiiba 7. Miinawaa **Across:** 1. Ningiyyose 3. Ogaa 5. Gaye 8. Aaniin

Niiwin-4 1. It is Autumn, and I like it. (Dagwaagin) 2. Sun now warms things up. (Giizis) 3. Yesterday, it was-cold by the lake there. (Gisinaa) 4. You harvest/cut firewood soon. We will be cold. (Gimanise) 5. My grandfather, he planted them, maple trees. Now there are red leaves. (Miskobagaa) 6. I hope you all have good luck/happenings.

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.

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