



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Boozhke giin. Ojibwemodaa! Giin, ookomisan, miinawaa omishoomisan gimaajinaawaag ikwezensag gwiiwizensag idash. Gidaa-giigoonyike. Gidaawim “gekino’amaagewaad”. Daga ikidon, “giigoonh.” Daga ikidon, “jiimaan.” Ikidon miinawaa. Ojibwemon. “Izhaadaa imaa zaaga’iganing!” Daga ikidon, “daga naadin weweganaagaan.” Howah! Ginitaa-ojibwem. Gizaagi’in noozhis, (ninjiijaanis), (nitamoozhaan). Gigiikaj ina? Daga ojibwem. “Eya’, ingiikaj.” gemaa “Gaawiin ingiikajisiin.” Miigwech!

(It is up to you. Let’s all speak Ojibwe! You, his/her grandmother his/her grandfather, you all take the girls and boys along. You all could go fishing. You all are “the ones who teach.” Please say, “fish.” Please say, “canoe.” Say it again. You speak Ojibwe. “Let’s all go to the lake!” Please say it, “please go get the fishing rod.” Wow! You really know how to speak Ojibwe. I love you my grandchild, (my child), (my first-born child). Are you cold? Please speak Ojibwe. “Yes, I am cold.” or perhaps “No, I am not cold.” Thank you!

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)

NAD: Nouns
Animate, Dependent
Indinawemaaganag
My relatives, My Mother, Your, His/Her
Nimaamaa or Ninga, Gimaamaa or Giga, Omaamaayan or Ogiin
My Father, Your, His/Her
Nindede, Gidede, Odedeyan or Imbaabaa, Gibaabaa, Obaabaayan
My Older Sister, Your, His/Her
Nimisenh, Gimisenh, Omisenyan
My Older Brother, Your, His/Her
Nisayenh, Gisayenh, Osayenyan
For Male and Female:
My Younger Sister or Brother, Your, His/Her
Nishiime, Gishiime, Oshiimeyan
(I) Niin, (You) Giin, (Him/Her) Wiin

Niizh—2

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

A. Maamakaajichigedaa noongom! Aaniin ezhichigeyan?

B. Niwiidookaage inzhoomiingwen dash endaso-giizhik.

C. Maamakaajichigedaa wayiiba! Aaniin waa-izhichigeyan?

D. Inga-nanda-gikendaanan ojibwe-ikidowinan.

E. Maamakaajichigedaa! Aaniin gaa-izhichigewaad?

F. Ogii-chiibaakwaadaa-naawaan wiisiniwinan.

G. Gii-piinichigewag oodenaang.

H. Bezbig, niizh, niswi! Wiidookaagedaa oodenaang.

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

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN
ODAMINOWIN
(word play)

Down:
1. please
2. Say it!
3. I am cold.
6. your younger sibling

Across:
4. canoe
5. Go get/fetch it!
7. his/her mother
8. my younger sibling
9. my dog

Niiwin—4

Gizaagi’aawaag.—You all love them.
VTA—Animate—Transitive—Verb patterns
Gizaagi’in Nimaamaa.—I love you Mom.
Nindede Nishiime gaye gizaagi’ininim.—Dad and Little brother I love you all.
Abinoojiyens gizaagi’igoo.—Baby we all love you.
Ty nizaagi’ig.—Ty (s/he) loves me.
Gizaagi’ ina?—Do you love me?
Nizaagi’aa.(-g)—I love him/her. (them)
Gizaagi’aa.(ag)—You love him/her. (them)
Ozaagi’aan.—S/he loves him/her/them.
Nizaagi’aanaan.(-ig)—We love him/her. (them)
Gizaagi’aawaa.(-g)—You all love him/her. (them)
Ozaagi’aawaan. They love him/her/them.

1. Bijiinaago gii-ikido “ gii-zaagi’ ”. Ingii-maw.
2. Memindage moozhag ga-zaagi’ , nindaanis.
3. zaagi’ inday. Miika izhinikaazo. Zaagi’idewin.
4. Ningozis wii-gaagige-zaagi’ wiiwan.
5. maamaa gekino’amaaged memindage wiidookaage. Ingichi-zaagi’aa.

O— –aan
Nin— –aa
Gi— –igo
Nin— –ig
Ni-

Online Resources

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

Translations:
Niizh—2 A. Let’s all do amazing things now! What are you doing? B. I help people and I smile every day. C. Let’s all do amazing things soon. What do you want to do? D. I will seek to learn Ojibwe words. E. Let’s all do amazing things. What did they do? F. They cooked the foods. G. They cleaned in the town. G. One, two, three! Let’s all help people in the town!
Niswi—3 Down: 1. Daga 2. Ikidon 3. Ningiikaj 6. Gishiime Across: 4. Jiimaan 5. Naadin 7. Ogiin 8. Nishiime 9. Inday
Niiwin—4 1. Yesterday he said, “He loves me.” I cried. (Nin- -ig) 2. Above all, we will always love you, my daughter. (gi- igoo) 3. I love my dog. She is named Miika. Love. (Nin- -aa) 4. My son will forever love his wife. (o- -aan) 5. My mother is a teacher and especially helps people. I really love her. (Ni)

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.