



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

“Gii-koonikaa gii-biboong. Ani-ziigwang, bijibiisaa. Ganabaj ina niibowa wii-gimi-wan? Amanj iidog. Apegish waa-iskaabiisiinog. Apane, gidaa-biindaakoojigemin. Nitam, niwii-izhaamin iskigamiziganing. Waabang, giga-maajaamin. Eko-niizhing, giga-ozhiga’igemin. Eko-nising, giga-taashkiga’igemin. Eko-niiyo, giga-naadoobiimin. Giga-ombigamizigemin. Eko-naano, giga-miijinaamin. Gaye, niwii-gii-kooyike. Giwii-kiigooyike na? Wiidookawishin ji-nakwebinagwa ingiw giigoonyag.”

(There was a lot of snow when it was winter. As spring begins, the rain comes. Perhaps there will be a lot of rain? I don’t know maybe. I hope it will not dry up. Always, we should make a tobacco offering. First, we want to go to the sugarbush. At dawn, we all shall leave. Second, we all shall tap trees. Third, we all shall split wood. Fourth, we all will gather sap. We all shall boil it down. Fifth, we all will eat it. Also, I want to go fishing. You want to go fishing? Help me in order to find those fish.)

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)

Niizh — 2

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

A. Inashke! Animikiibag! Gego daanginangen! Giwii-kizhiibiz.

B. Ikwe omanibinaan doodooshaaboojiibikoon imaa.

C. Ingiw ajidamoowaanowag ayaawag miikanaang.

D. Niwaabamaag ingiw miskominagaawanzhiig.

E. Gaye na niwaabamaag ode’iminagaawanzhiig iwidi?

F. A’aw ishkokewijiibik aawi mashkiki.

G. Nimikawaa wiinisibag. Indaniibiishaabooke.

H. Izhaadaa agwajiing!

Niswi — 3

IKIDOWIN

ODAMINOWIN

(word play)

Down:

1. always

2. no

3. rain comes

5. first

Across:

4. I wish, hope that

6. medicine

7. over there

8. s/he is

9. there

Online Resources

ojibwe.lib.umn.edu

ojibwe.net

glifwc.org

glifwc-inwe.com

Niiwin — 4

Wegonen enendaman ziigwang?—

What are you thinking as it is spring?

Niwaakaa’iganing indaa-binaakwe’ige.—

At my house I should/could be raking.

Gidaa-izhaa waabigwaanii-adaawewigamigong wayiibaa.—You should/could go to the flower shop soon.

Gitigaaning niwii-padakidoomin gitigaanens.—

In the garden we will plant vegetables.

Gaawiin niwii-titibiwebishkawaasii ditibiwebishkiganing.—No, I do not want to pedal my bicycle.

Ninga-izhaa iskigamiziganing.—I shall definitely go to the sugarbush.

Mii’iw.—That’s it.

1. _____ adaawen _____ iniw miinikaanan.

2. _____-maajaa Zhaawanong noongom.

3. Zaaga’iganing imaa _____ binaakwe’ige _____.

4. Ani-ziigwang, megwayaak _____ bimose.

5. Iskigamizigan _____ gemaa waakaa’igan _____ niwii-miijinaamin gitigaanensan. :-).

—inga

Gidaa —

Inga — —min

gaawiin —siin

—ing

Translations:

Niizh — 2 A. Look! Poison Ivy! Don’t touch it! You will itch. B. The lady picks the dandelion there. C. Those goldenrods are there by the road. D. I see the raspberry plant. E. Also, do I see strawberry vines over there? F. That Shepard’s purse is medicine. G. I find wintergreen. I make tea. H. Let’s all go outside!

Niswi — 3 Down: 1. apane 2. gaawiin 3. bijibiisaa 5. nitam Across: 4. apegish 6. mashkiki 7. iwidi 8. aawi 9. imaa

Niiwin — 4 1. We definitely will buy those seeds. (Inga- -min) 2. You should/could leave to the south now. (gidaa-) 3. By the lake there, no, I am not raking. (gaawiin. -siin). 4. As spring arrives in the woods I shall definitely walk. (inga-) 5. At the sugarbush or at the house we will eat vegetables. (-ing)

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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